

YEF Council Youth Delegate Applications

To: Youth Leaders in Local Government

From: Dr. Robert Blaine, Senior Executive and Director, Center for Leadership, Education, Advancement & Development, National League of Cities

Re: Youth Appointments to NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families

Membership on NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Council) is an opportunity for youth to have an ongoing voice in the work of NLC and its Center for Leadership, Education, Advancement & Development (LEAD), including its national efforts to promote youth participation in civic affairs. NLC's commitment to youth representation began with the YEF Council's formation more than two decades ago within the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families. LEAD continues to enthusiastically recommend promoting youth voice and youth leadership development and incorporates youth voice into its work whenever possible.

"Being a member of the YEF Council is an amazing and unique experience that allows me to work with city councilmembers and mayors from cities across the nation and advocate for issues on behalf of the youth." – *Former YEF Council Youth Member*

NLC invites any youth leader who serves on a city's youth council, commission, or advisory board and who is also *currently* enrolled as a high school sophomore or junior to nominate themselves for appointment to NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families. The NLC President will appoint up to four young people from nominees for 12-month terms starting in April 2025. Youth may be reappointed for an additional year based upon successful completion of their first term.

The YEF Council includes youth members, local elected officials, and leaders in fields outside of municipal government. More information on the work of the YEF Institute, LEAD and the current leadership of the YEF Council is available [here](#).

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Meetings

The YEF Council meets up to four times during each 12-month term. Attendance at these meetings is a crucial component of Council membership. These meetings will occur during NLC's national conferences: NLC's City Summit in November 2025 in Salt Lake City, UT and NLC's Congressional City Conference held each March in Washington, DC. Youth council members are required to attend each of these national conferences, during which they are expected to provide an update on their work to the full YEF Council.

Youth members of the YEF Council also serve on the Youth Delegate Planning Committee, which plans a key role in coordinating the youth delegate sessions at NLC conferences. The Planning Committee meets two times per month virtually and plays an active role in each conference. Youth council members are expected to serve as leaders on the Youth Delegate Planning Committee and other leadership roles during youth delegate sessions.

NLC does not pay travel expenses for youth to attend NLC conferences and expects that each youth member's hometown (i.e., municipal government or community partners) will cover these costs as part of their continuing support for local youth participation initiatives.

Application Materials

If you wish to be considered for an appointment to the YEF Council, please send the following information:

1. **A personal statement** that describes why you believe you would be a good member of the YEF Council, your experience with public speaking, and your current involvement in your city's youth council, student government, and/or other civic participation activities. This statement should also address **(A)** how your experiences enable you to represent various youth effectively, **(B)** how involvement in the YEF Council would contribute to your growth and future plans, and **(C)** how you will share the ideas and strategies being discussed by the YEF Council with your hometown youth council or other local groups. This can be submitted as a video statement if preferred.
2. **A resume and another statement of qualifications** that you have for this position, including your most recent academic transcript and the dates/locations of any NLC national conferences in which you have participated. Please note that NLC accepts unofficial transcripts.
3. **A brief letter from your parent or guardian** indicating that you have permission to serve on the YEF Council if appointed, including permission to travel to the locations where meetings are being held. **This letter must either authorize you to travel on your own or explain what other arrangements will be made to accommodate the travel requirements associated with this position.**

4. **A letter of support from an elected or appointed official in your city** indicating their support for your participation, **including the commitment by the city or their community partners to cover the costs of attending NLC conferences as described above.**
5. A recent photograph (headshot only please).

This information must be sent by e-mail to Sheeva Kelly, LEAD, Senior Executive Administrator, at youthengagement@nlc.org no later than **midnight on Monday, March 24, 2025**. Please contact Sharie via email with any questions.

LEAD staff may contact you for a follow-up interview. LEAD's Senior Executive Director will make recommendations to the NLC President based upon materials submitted, the interview (if applicable), and other considerations including NLC's goal of seeking diverse representation based on experience, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and geography. NLC will announce youth appointments to the YEF Council on April 14, 2025. A mandatory, virtual meeting for all newly elected youth delegates will occur the following week.