NAMI NEXTGEN
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Overview

Established in 2022, the NAMI Next Gen Young Adult Advisory Group is comprised of 10members between the ages of 18-25 that brings youth voices to the forefront of mental health advocacy. Advisors help shape NAMI's policies, programs, and services while empowering young people to become informed, resilient advocates. As a Next Gen Advisor, you'll use your lived experience and perspective to drive real change, ensuring youth not only have a voice, but help lead the way.

At NAMI, we believe in youth and young adult voices, power and expertise to address youth mental health and well-being. The perspectives and ideas of young people are at the forefront of NAMI's work, and we are looking for the next generation of leaders to join NAMI Next Gen class of 2026!

Term & Compensation

- **Term:** January 2027 – December 2027
- **Compensation:** $20/hour, up to 40 hours per month*
- **Timesheets:** Each NAMI Next Gen advisor must complete a timesheet with details of hours spent on Next Gen related work for approval prior to inputting hours into NAMI's payroll software, UKG. Timesheets will be due 3 days prior to payroll deadlines.

*additional hours outside of 20 per pay cycle must be pre-approved by leadership.

Requirements and Qualifications

Advisors must:

- Be 18–25 years old through December 31, 2027, and reside in the U.S.
- Identify as having lived mental health experience or a strong passion for supporting/advocating for others with mental health conditions.
- Be an active and current member of an NSO or NA in at least one of the following ways:
    - Leadership role in NAMI On Campus.
    - Previous service as a state or local affiliate board member or young adult advisory member.*

    - Completion of training in a NAMI education program:
        - NAMI Ending the Silence
        - NAMI In Our Own Voice
        - NAMI Family to Family
        - NAMI Peer to Peer
        - NAMI Provider Education
        - NAMI Connection
        - NAMI Family Support Group
        - NAMI Smarts for Advocacy
    - Training or leadership in a state or affiliate program.
- Commit to serving a one-year term.
- Be empathetic, enthusiastic, and passionate about mental health and advocacy.
- Bring creativity and proactive solutions to youth mental health challenges.
- Demonstrate strong oral/written communication skills and willingness to learn new tools.
    - Be comfortable with and/or open to skill development in public speaking in both in-person and virtual settings.
- Be responsive and reliable in communication with NAMI National staff (Outlook, Slack, etc.).
- Manage responsibilities effectively, meet deadlines, and submit biweekly timesheets with a breakdown of your hours and activities.
- Availability to attend the following events in person:
    - Onboarding retreat, January 2027 in Phoenix (exact dates to be announced)
    - NAMICon, June 8-11 in Washington DC

*Please note: the nominee cannot serve on National NAMI Next Gen while serving on a board/advisory council at a state or affiliate level or with any other mental health organization.

Key Responsibilities

As a Next Gen Advisor, you will:

1. **Amplify Youth Voices in Mental Health**
    - Help create resources and programs tailored to youth needs.
    - Lead the development of a monthly youth-led newsletter.
    - Share your story through written pieces, social media, and creative platforms to inspire others.
    - Participate in media opportunities that elevate the Next Gen mission.

2. **Advocacy and Outreach**
    - Plan and support youth-focused programming at NAMI's National events, and Convention.
    - Represent NAMI Next Gen at conferences and public events.
    - Promote equity and inclusion, ensuring youth—especially marginalized communities—are represented.
    - Advocate for equitable access to resources and opportunities.
    - Work in collaboration with NAMI National's Government Relations Policy & Advocacy (GRPA) team for all legislative advocacy.

3. **Build Community Through Collaboration**
    - Communicate promptly and effectively with peers, staff, and partners using NAMI official channels.
    - Participate in monthly team meetings and project check-ins as needed.
    - Participate in additional project planning meetings as needed.
    - Contribute to a supportive, inclusive, and professional team culture built on accountability and mutual respect.

4. **Grow Professionally**
    - Pursue professional development opportunities.
    - Lead and engage in skill-building activities with peers and state-level NAMI Next Gen groups.

5. **Leave Your Imprint**
    - As a NAMI Next Gen member, use your voice, perspective, and lived experience to help strengthen how NAMI engages and supports youth and young adults.
    - Provide feedback and recommendations that help improve NAMI's youth and young adult resources, programs, and initiatives.
    - Help shape NAMI's language, messaging, and approaches to ensure young people are meaningfully represented and involved in our work.
    - Share your voice and perspective through speaking opportunities, presentations, panels, webinars, and other opportunities across the NAMI Alliance and beyond.

Core Expectations & Values

- **Openness and Collaboration -** Different perspectives make us stronger. We want to hear every voice. Approach things with curiosity and an open mind. Listen, share, and learn from experiences that may be different from your own.
- **Commitment** - Active participation and attendance. Join all meetings, lead at least one, help with tasks like notes and follow-ups, and share your ideas. Let us know what support you need to succeed.
- **Communication –** Communication keeps us connected and is a critical part of this work, especially as a primarily remote group. Reply to Slack messages within 24 business hours during the work week (Monday-Friday), give 48 hours' notice if you can't attend a meeting, catch up on missed meetings, and ask for help when needed.
- **Passion and Advocacy** - Actively promote mental health awareness and equity by sharing your lived experience and perspective and contributing to projects that create lasting impact.