



# NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

## NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION

### YOUTH BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Board of Directors is a working board that is responsible for policy making and fiscal oversight of the organization. Youth board members are full voting members of the NICWA board; they have the same duties and responsibilities as all board members, with the exception of an exemption from the individual fundraising requirement.

Youth board members are expected to support the goals and purposes of NICWA, as set forth in the bylaws, through their membership and actions. Youth board members must maintain current NICWA membership. Youth board members may pay the student rate for NICWA membership, and if this poses a financial hardship, should notify the executive director, who will provide a membership to them free of charge. The board typically meets at least four times per year, and all board members are encouraged to support their own travel costs if possible (for example, with support from their tribe). Funding is available to support travel to any in-person meetings for board members who are unable to cover the cost themselves.

All board members are required to attend meetings regularly. Youth board members are encouraged to serve on all board committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee, in order to gain experience with the varied subject matter and areas of responsibility. Youth board member benefits include opportunities to learn, network, shape policy, and bring new resources to Indian child welfare. Please consider what you can contribute and what experience, knowledge, and relationships you hope to gain. A youth board member job description and committee descriptions are attached for your information.

Youth board members will be selected to join the slate of nominees to the NICWA board based on a combination of the following factors:

- Interest in a career in Indian child welfare, social work, psychology, or other related fields;
- Lived experience in tribal or state foster care, or experience interacting with other “helping systems” like children’s mental health or family support (preferred but not required); and
- Cultural engagement, values, skills, and interests.

**Please complete the following information. If you need additional space to answer any of the short answer questions, you may attach additional pages with your returned application.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Tribal affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly describe how you are connected to or interested in learning about your tribal community (you may attach additional pages to your application if you'd like to share more than fits in this section):

2. Age:

3. Are you a current student? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please complete the following:

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current year: \_\_\_\_\_

Major or other main course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you currently employed? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please complete the following:

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please describe your background or interest in Indian child welfare, social work, social services, foster care and adoption, children's mental health, and/or other related issues (this may include academic or professional interest, personal experience, or both):

4. Please list highlights in your academic, professional, community, and/ or volunteer experience:

5. Board members are asked to attend four 1.5-day board meetings per year as well as committee meetings and other virtual meetings between formal board meetings. If elected to the NICWA Board of Directors, can you commit to attending all board meetings to the best of your ability?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I can attend.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I cannot attend.

6. Please list two references—one peer reference and one adult reference—who can speak to your background, community connections, and/or ability to serve on the NICWA Board of Directors.

Peer reference

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Relationship:

Why did you select this person to serve as a reference?

Adult reference

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Relationship:

Why did you select this person to serve as a reference?

Note: Your application will be reviewed by the board's Governance Committee, and a delegate from that committee will be in contact with you. All members of the NICWA Board of Directors are expected to maintain current membership. If you are not a current member at the time you are elected to the board, we ask that you become a member by your first board meeting. Membership dues start at \$35 annually for students, and scholarships for membership are available if payment would be a financial hardship. Please visit <https://www.nicwa.org/membership/> for more information. If selected to join the slate of nominees for the NICWA Board of Directors, your election is contingent upon the successful completion of a basic background check.

Please return your completed application to:

Mariah Garcia  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
5100 S Macadam Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97239  
(503) 222-4044 (t)  
mgarcia@nicwa.org

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