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YEF Council Youth Delegate Representatives

To: Youth Leaders in Local Government

From: Dr. Robert Blaine, Senior Executive and Director
Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, 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 Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), 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. The YEF Institute continues to enthusiastically recommend promoting youth voice and youth leadership development, and incorporates youth voice into its own work wherever 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. NLC President Mayor Victoria Woodards will appoint up to four young people from nominees for 12-month terms starting in March 2023. 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 and the current leadership of the YEF Council is available [here](#).

Meetings

The YEF Council meets three times in-person during each 12-month term. Attendance at these meetings is a crucial component of Council membership. Decisions about whether 2023 meetings will be held in person or virtually will be made based on the guidance of public officials and with the health and safety of members as the top priority.

These three meetings will occur during NLC's national conferences: NLC's Congressional City Conferences in Washington, D.C., in March 2023 and March 2024, and NLC's City Summit in November 2024 in Atlanta, GA. Youth council members are required to attend all three 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 all 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 will serve as the emcees of all 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 the costs of their participation as part of their continuing support for local youth leadership 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 statement of the 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 from your city indicating their support for your participation, **including the commitment by the city or its 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 Sharie Wood, Program Manager for Meetings and Events, at youthengagment@nlc.org and received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern on **Friday, January 20, 2023**. Please contact Sharie via email with any questions.

YEF Institute staff may contact you for a follow-up interview. The YEF Institute 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 **February 10th, 2023**. A mandatory meeting for all newly elected youth delegates will occur the following week on **February 15th, 2023**.