



**You've got a voice.  
We've got a mic.  
Join our community.  
Be heard to improve mental  
wellness for youth.**

**Young people experiencing depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide often don't get the help they need. We want to change that, and we want your help.**

The [National Council for Behavioral Health](#), in partnership with [Youth MOVE National](#), invites you to participate in a new and unique opportunity to create better community services and supports for young people experiencing issues with mental health. **This is the sneak peek overview.** We'll be sending out an official application request in December 2018, but for now, we thought you might like to know what's in store.

Join us and make a real impact! We're looking for 20 people between the ages of 16 and 24 to participate in an *Influencers Institute*. We're hoping for a diverse group of people with lots of different views.

Ideal participants for the Influencers Institute are those who are not afraid of navigating a challenge, who have learned from their life experiences so far and are practicing using their voice to make a difference. Life experiences may include navigating the foster care system, building a youth group, experiencing living with a mental health challenge or stepping up to lead in your school or community because you care about youth issues. You *don't* have to be a class president to join in (but you can be!). You *do* have to be passionate about improving the lives of young people. Our community values all of these experiences as expertise – and we need this expertise in our work. You are receiving this notification because you have been nominated by a local organization or someone who thinks you would be a great Young Influencer.

As a *Young Influencer* you will:

- Connect directly with organizations in your community and use your experience and perspective to improve youth engagement in wellness supports.
- Reach out and expand your network to engage other young people and represent their voice.

- Develop your leadership skills to be an ambassador in your community and beyond.
- Connect with other peers who also have a passion for this work.
- Receive a stipend of \$6,500 for your full participation and engagement throughout the Institute (January 2019 – September 2020).

Remember, this is all the sneak peek info. When the formal application process begins, there will be more details. If you have questions in the meantime, reach out to our super-friendly Project Coordinator, Libbi Ethier at [LibbiE@TheNationalCouncil.org](mailto:LibbiE@TheNationalCouncil.org).

### Sound good?

We hope you'll accept this nomination to join the application pool for the Influencers Institute. If your community is selected as a pilot site, we are committed to engaging youth in your community as well. Because we're hoping to serve young people, we want to involve young people as leaders in a very real way!

## Membership Responsibilities

Young Influencers are making a commitment to an important project. Please consider carefully the activities that require your participation:

### Youth Engagement in Pilot Sites

Participants in the Influencers Institute will be engaged in the work of their nominating community organization throughout their two-year involvement with the project. This includes bringing youth voice into local community plans and projects. Part of the Institute will focus on how each of us can be a champion for youth voice in organizations. This may include sitting on planning committees, being a part of evaluation teams and serving as co-facilitators.

### Youth Engagement in Your Community

Participants in the Influencers Institute will be responsible for making sure many voices are heard in creating community change. This means each Young Influencer will work to gather thoughts and opinions from other youth in their community. Together we'll unite youth voices to create the change that is needed.

### The Institute (AND In-Person Events!)

The Influencers Institute will bring leadership growth and development to each young adult. We'll meet virtually and in-person over 18 months. Each Young Influencer will commit to learning and growing through the curriculum – including coaching, peer learning and self-discovery.

*Virtual Meetings:* Young Influencers will participate in recurring virtual meetings with project staff, peer mentors and fellow Young Influencers.

*Virtual Events:* Young Influencers will participate in four in-person events, two of which will take place at [NatCon](#), the National Council for Behavioral Health's national conference.

- Event #1 at NatCon19: March 2019 in Nashville, Tenn.
- Event #2: September 2019 – Location TBD
- Event #3 at NatCon20: April 2020 in Austin, Texas
- Event #4: September 2020 – Location TBD