

## Pilot Overview

# NCJW Action Teams Cohort 2019

## The Basics

The [National Council of Jewish Women, Inc.](#) (NCJW) is piloting NCJW Action Teams in 2019 in communities where there is no NCJW section. These action teams will mobilize progressive Jewish women to build power, impact policy, and educate our communities in alignment with our [priority issues](#). Over the course of the pilot, a cohort of 10 to 16 NCJW Action Team leads representing five to eight teams will be trained and coached on how to build an effective action team that will engage in our civic engagement, federal courts, or reproductive health, rights and justice work. Action team leads will participate in regular cohort webinars, receive regular coaching, and attend Washington Institute 2019 to ensure they (1) are connected to the greater NCJW network; (2) further strengthen their leadership, advocacy, and organizing skills; and (3) receive the support they need to build a team and represent NCJW in their community. The cohort will be selected from an applicant pool of NCJW advocates from across the country by an NCJW Action Team Application Committee, made up of two members of the NCJW board, a member of the Government Relations and Advocacy Department, and a member of the Member and Field Services Department.

## What is an NCJW Action Team?

An action team is a group of NCJW members and volunteers, coordinated by at least two co-leads, that advances NCJW's mission. The teams are in communities where there is not an NCJW section. They create social change and build community through a combination of advocacy, issue education, and community organizing. Their actions will focus on civic engagement, federal courts, or reproductive health, rights, and justice.

## Our Goals and Outcomes

NCJW is launching Action Teams to expand our grassroots advocacy capacity and presence in communities.

The Action Team leads will enhance their leadership skills as well as impact policy, advocate for justice, and support the community. They will also build deep relationships within their cohort, with NCJW staff, and with other progressive groups and individuals in their communities.

As a result, NCJW will develop a greater understanding of the needs of the field, while the increased reach of the newly designed action teams will lead to greater organizational visibility and a larger base to accomplish our mission.

## NCJW Will Provide:

- Webinar trainings to include: an introduction to anti-oppression framework; policy issues briefings; and tools to recruit members, develop a team, build leaders, and how to lobby effectively.
- Regularly scheduled office hours and optional one on one support.
- Support for recruitment and access to list of members in your community.
- Weekly Wrap Up e-newsletter, talking points, weekly action alerts, and monthly *Lead: Practical Tools for Grassroots Advocates* webinars.
- Access to a national cohort of action team leads.
- Subsidies for up to two action team leads to attend [Washington Institute](#) from April 7-9, 2019.
- Expert speakers or facilitators for in-person or virtual trainings
- Access to Zoom video conference account for meetings.
- A website template and staff support for set up.
- Modest budget based on size of action team.

## Action Team Co-Leads Commit to:

- [Join NCJW](#).
- Co-lead an action team for 18 months.
- Build an action team of at least eight NCJW members and supporters, in addition to the leads, by September 2019.
- Endorse or oppose local or state legislation that is in keeping with the positions and programs of NCJW and consistent with the [National Resolutions](#). If there is

- an NCJW State Policy Advocacy (SPA) Chair, the SPA will guide the state policy efforts and policy positions and engage the Action Team in their efforts.
- Attend four action team cohort online trainings and one Washington Institute online pre-training. (See *timeline below*)
  - Participate in monthly coaching/office hour calls with NCJW staff. (See *timeline below*)
  - Complete a pre- and post-evaluation for the pilot. (See *timeline below*)
  - Co-coordinate advocacy, issue education, and/or community organizing around federal courts, civic engagement, or reproductive health, rights, and justice.
  - Manage a communication vehicle (e.g. listserv, Facebook group, etc.) and ensure there are at least monthly updates.
  - Hold regular in-person or phone meetings or activities.

## Tentative Timeline

Action	Date	Time Commitment for Team Leads
Application Live	November 15, 2018	
Application Deadline	December 17, 2018	1 hour
NCJW Reviews Applications	December 2018 - early January 2019	
NCJW Invites Action Teams Leads to Participate in Cohort	Mid-January 2019	
Team Leads Complete Pre-Evaluation	January 2019	< 1 hour
Kick-Off Cohort Webinar, including a grounding on anti-oppression framework	February 5, 2019 at 7:30pmET	1.5 hours

Cohort Training Webinar*: Developing Teams, Best Practices	February 26, 2019 at 7:30pmET	1.5 hours
NCJW Coaching/ Office Hours	March	30 min
Issue Briefing Webinar	March 20, 2019 at 1:30pmET	1 hour
Attend Washington Institute	April 7-9	2.5 days
Cohort Debrief Video Call	May	1 hour
NCJW Coaching/ Office Hours	June	30 mins
Mid-year Report	June	30 mins
Cohort Training Webinar*: Using One on One Meetings to Expand Your Leadership Team	July	1.5 hours
NCJW Coaching/ Office Hours	August/ September	30 mins
Cohort Training Webinar* - Developing Leaders	October	1.5 hours
Team Leads Complete Post-Evaluation	November	< 1 hour

*\*Some webinar topics might shift based on the requests of the cohort participants*

As NCJW members, cohort participants have access to all other NCJW resources including Weekly Wrap-Up e-newsletter, talking points, advocacy and organizing resources, Action Alerts, monthly leadership and advocacy webinars, Membership campaign materials. *Additional resources may be developed based on feedback.*

## NCJW Resources and Coaching

Launching an action team will take time and commitment, and NCJW staff is here to help! In addition to formal trainings and resources, staff will be available to offer coaching and support throughout the pilot. At the beginning of the pilot, staff will schedule two monthly standing calls to provide a space to share successes, challenges, questions, or concerns. Manager of Grassroots Advocacy Ari Conrad and Associate Director of Government Relations and Advocacy Lindsay Morris will each facilitate one of the calls, and everyone is encouraged to join a call at least once a month.

## Reporting

NCJW is collecting data in order to determine whether the first year of the Action Team meets its stated goals. Data and information from the action team leads cohort will help us measure success and adapt for later cohorts. The cohort is expected to complete a pre-evaluation at the start of the pilot, a mid-year report, and a post-evaluation at its close. Anecdotal information from trainings, coaching sessions, and one on one conversations will also be captured.

## Questions

For any questions or concerns about the Action Team Leads cohort pilot and application process, contact Lindsay Morris at [lmorris@ncjw.org](mailto:lmorris@ncjw.org) or 202-375-5066 or Ari Conrad at [aconrad@ncjw.org](mailto:aconrad@ncjw.org) or 202-375-5073.