

Overview

NCJW Action Teams Cohort

The Basics

The National Council of Jewish Women, Inc. (NCJW) is supporting NCJW Action Teams in communities where there is no NCJW section. These action teams will mobilize progressive Jewish feminists to build power, impact policy, and educate our communities in alignment with NCJW's [priority issues](#). Over the course of the pilot, a cohort of NCJW Action Team leads will be trained and coached on how to build an effective action team that will educate and mobilize on issues related to voter engagement, federal courts, and/or reproductive health, rights and justice work. Action team leads will participate in cohort and *Lead!* webinars, receive coaching from NCJW Inc. staff, and attend our annual national conference 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. Applications will be reviewed by an NCJW Action Team Application Committee.

What is an NCJW Action Team?

An action team is a group of NCJW members and volunteers, coordinated by one or two co-leads, that advance NCJW's mission. The teams are in communities where there is not an NCJW section. Through building an NCJW community, they are agents of social change utilizing a combination of advocacy, issue education, and community organizing. Their actions focus on voter 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, to support more Jewish, feminist leaders, and to confront today's most urgent social and economic challenges.

The Action Team members 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.

NCJW Will Provide:

- Webinar trainings with potential topics to include: introduction to anti-oppression framework; policy issues briefings; tools to recruit members, developing a team, building leaders; and how to have an effective advocacy visit with a lawmaker.
- Regularly scheduled office hours and 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: Organizing Skills for Grassroots Advocates* webinars.
- Access to a national cohort of action team leads.
- Subsidies for a limited number of action team leads and members to attend NCJW's annual national conference.
- Expert speakers or facilitators for in-person or virtual trainings for the action team
- 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.

Additional resources may be developed based on feedback.

Action Team Co-Leads Commit to:

- [Join NCJW](#).
- Co-lead an action team for 18 months.
- Build an action team of at least eight members, in addition to the leads, within the first year.
- 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 action team cohort online trainings.
 - Participate in regular coaching/office hour calls with NCJW staff.
 - Complete a pre- and post-evaluation for the pilot.
 - Act as convener for the action team to engage in advocacy, issue education, and/or community organizing around federal courts, voter 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 to continuously build the action team.

NCJW Resources and Coaching

Launching an action team will take time and commitment, and NCJW staff is here to support you in your efforts! In addition to formal trainings and resources, staff will be available to offer coaching and support throughout the pilot. Grassroots Associate Hannah Cohen Smith, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy Ari Conrad and Associate Director of Government Relations and Advocacy Lindsay Morris will facilitate calls and be available to schedule one on one support.

Questions

For any questions or concerns about the Action Team Leads cohort pilot and application process, contact Hannah Cohen Smith at hcohensmith@ncjw.org or 240-509-5507.