**USICD Youth Advisory Committee Application**

Thank you for your interest in joining the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) Youth Advisory Committee (UYAC). This committee’s purpose is to engage youth in promoting and advocating for international disability rights. It aims to increase awareness and understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and support its global implementation. The committee will meet monthly with additional meetings scheduled as necessary.

If you are a young person dedicated to empowering emerging youth leaders with disabilities across the globe to advocate, collaborate, and drive positive change in their communities, country, and beyond, then please consider applying!

**Objectives**

* To involve youth in the activities and decision-making processes of USICD.
* To raise awareness among youth about the CRPD and its implementation.
* To develop and propose projects that promote youth involvement in international disability rights.
* To foster leadership and advocacy skills among youth members.

**Membership**

* The UYAC will consist of approximately 10 youth members.
* Members will be selected through an application process and approved by the USICD Board of Directors.
* Membership is open to youth who are passionate about disability rights and committed to the objectives of the UYAC.

**Projects and Proposals**

* The UYAC will identify and agree on a project(s) that aligns with its objectives.
* A detailed project proposal will be drafted and submitted to the USICD Board of Directors for approval.
* Upon approval, the UYAC will seek potential funders to support the project.

**Reporting**

* The UYAC will provide regular updates to the USICD Board of Directors.
* An annual report summarizing the activities and achievements of the UYAC will be submitted to the USICD Board.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

* Must be between the ages of 18-30.
* Identify as a person with a disability.
* Passionate about disability rights, inclusion, and global advocacy.
* Ability to commit to virtual meetings and engagements.

**Application Instructions:** Please note that your information is confidential and will only be shared with the USICD Board of Directors to select members of the UYAC.

Complete the following sections and submit your application by **11:59 pm EST/New York time on** **1 August 2025.** Please [contact us](mailto:ihodge@usicd.org?subject=USICD%20Youth%20Advisory%20Committee%20Question(s)) if you have any questions.

1. **USICD Membership Status**

Are you a [member of the United States International Council on Disabilities](http://usicd.org/membership)? Yes/No

**2. Biographical Information:**

Full Name:

Year of Birth: Pronouns:

Email Address:

Phone Number (including country code):

City

U.S. State or Country of Residence:

Spoken Language(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To ensure diversity in the UYAC, please indicate your ethnic group from the list below:

African American

Asian American

Caucasian

Hispanic or Latino

Native American or Alaska Native

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Middle Eastern or North Africa

Multiracial

Other (please specify):

Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**3. Disability & Required Accommodations**

1. Do you identify as a person with a disability? (Yes No )
2. Please indicate the type of disability you have:

Autism

Mobility Impairment

Visual (Blindness/low vision)

Hearing Impairment

Speech and Language

Intellectual Disability

Learning Disability

Mental Health

Neurological

Chronic illness and Health Conditions

Multiple Disabilities

Other (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you require any reasonable accommodation to participate in virtual meetings? (e.g., sign language interpretation, captioning, alternative formats) If yes, describe:

**4. Experience & Interests**

1. What interests you about joining USICD’s Youth Advisory Committee? (Max. 300 words)
2. Please provide details about your leadership, advocacy, or community involvement related to disability rights. (Max. 300 words)
3. Are you affiliated with any disability organizations or networks? If so, please list them.

**5. Skills & Contributions**

1. What skills or perspectives can you bring to the committee? (e.g., policy advocacy, digital storytelling, youth leadership, accessibility expertise) (Max. 300 words)
2. How do you hope to contribute to the committee’s mission and goals? (Max. 300 words)

**6. Commitment & Availability**

1. Can you commit to virtual meetings and engagements for a term of [Duration, e.g., one year] (Yes No )
2. Are you available for meetings that occur in the Eastern Time Zone/New York time zones? (Yes No )

**7. Additional Information**

Is there anything else you would like us to know? (Max. 200 words)

**8. References**

Please provide the contact information of one or more reference(s) who can speak to your dedication to the U.S. and global disability rights movement.

*Reference Name:*

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

*Reference Name:*

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

*Reference Name:*

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

**Submission Instructions and criteria for selection:**

Please submit your completed application [via email](mailto:ihodge@usicd.org?subject=USICD%20Youth%20Advisory%20Committee%20Application) by 11:59 pm EST/New York Time on 1 August 2025. The USICD Board of Directors will review applications. The criteria below will help us ensure selected members are dedicated, skilled, and capable of contributing meaningfully to the committee’s purpose and goals.

* **Age Requirement -** Applicants must be between the ages of 18-30. **(5 Points)**
* **Disability Identification -** Applicants must identify as a person with a disability. **(10 Points)**
* **Passion for Disability Rights -** Demonstrated passion for disability rights, inclusion, and global advocacy. **(15 points)**
* **Commitment to Objectives -** Commitment to the objectives of the UYAC, including promoting and advocating for international disability rights and increasing awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). **(10 Points)**
* **Leadership and Advocacy Experience -** Experience in leadership, advocacy, or community involvement related to disability rights. **(15 Points)**
* **Skills and Contributions -** Relevant skills or perspectives that can benefit the committee, such as policy advocacy, digital storytelling, youth leadership, or accessibility expertise. **(15 Points)**
* **Commitment to Participation -** Ability to commit to virtual meetings and engagements, including availability for meetings in the Eastern Time Zone/New York time zones. **(10 Points)**
* **Diversity and Inclusion -** Consideration of diversity in terms of ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, and type of disability to ensure a representative and inclusive committee. **(10 Points)**
* **Affiliation with Disability Organizations -** Affiliation with disability organizations or networks, if applicable. **(5 Points)**
* **References -** Positive references from individuals who can speak to the applicant's dedication to the disability rights movement. **(5 Points)**
* **Communication Skills -** Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, to effectively participate in committee discussions and activities. **(10 Points)**
* **Project Proposal and Implementation -** Ability to develop and propose projects that align with the committee's objectives and to seek potential funders for support. **(10 Points)**
* **Confidentiality and Professionalism -** Commitment to maintaining confidentiality and professionalism in all committee-related activities. **(5 Points)**

**We look forward to receiving your application.**