



## Champions for Change Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is Champions for Change?

- A. The [Champions for Change \(CFC\) program](#) is a Native youth leadership initiative designed to highlight positive stories of impact from Indian Country. The program, inspired by a 2011 White House initiative, develops young Native leaders through experience-based learning and tailored advocacy training. Each year, CNAY selects five inspirational Native youth to join the CFC leadership network. All applicants, regardless of acceptance, are named [Youth Ambassadors](#) and stay engaged with CNAY and the Gen-I Network.

### Q. Who can apply for Champions for Change?

A. Youth who:

- Self-identify as Indigenous;
- Are between the ages of 14 and 24 years old; and
- Currently reside in the United States.

### Q. How do I know if I'm a Champion for Change?

A. Champions for Change are young leaders who have a desire to better their communities. This can be done in your school, in a program on your reservation or urban community—anywhere you see an opportunity to positively impact your people. Champions aspire to grow in skills to support their work, connect with other youth leaders, and receive resources through the Center for Native American Youth. This doesn't need to be done through a formal initiative but seeing a need for positive change and having a desire to address it makes you a Champion. Applicants do not need to have prior recognition or training completed. You do not have prior exposure to Generation Indigenous.

Questions? Email Jennifer Peacock at [jennifer.peacock@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:jennifer.peacock@aspeninstitute.org)

### Q. When is the deadline to apply?

A. The deadline to submit your application is 11:59 PM Eastern Time on October 28, 2019.

### Q. What is the application process like?

A. The application is three parts:

- Application Essay;
- Peer recommendation; and
- Two letters of recommendation from adults.

**Q. How do I complete my application?**

A. The application can be found [here](#). You will not be able to save and return to this form. We recommend typing responses in a word processing document first and then pasting into the form when you're ready to submit. **Please note:** you must have all application materials in order to submit your application. This includes: your essay, peer and two adult recommendations.

**Q. I'm under 18, do I need guardian consent?**

A. Applicants under the age of 18 must have a parent, guardian or legal representative provide their electronic signature on the Champions for Change Application and provide their contact information. If you are under 18 and selected for a phone interview, your guardian is required to participate on the call. If selected to be a Champion for Change under the age of 18, a guardian is required to attend 2020 Champs Week February 10 – 14, 2020. CNAY will cover guardian travel and lodging costs.

**Q. Who should be my recommenders?**

Peer: A friend, team mate or someone from your school that is around your age that can discuss your work as a Champion for Change. Peer recommendations should be those who have seen your leadership ability, passion, and want to grow. These peers may know you through school, work, team sports, youth council, cultural events, and/or your leadership initiative.

Adult: You will need to have two separate adults submit letters for this portion. When selecting your letters of recommendation, it's important to look to those who can share what makes you a distinct and special applicant. Teachers, advisors, coaches, councilors, tribal leaders, supervisors, and those who work closely with you are great to share not only your work ethic, passion, and leadership efforts, but speak to your character and personality.

There will be a total of 3 letters of recommendation for a complete application.

**Q. I'm a young person with a disability will CNAY make accommodations?**

A. Yes! Please reach out to our team member, Jennifer Peacock, at [jennifer.peacock@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:jennifer.peacock@aspeninstitute.org) or call (202) 736-3505 and let us know what accommodation we can provide to support your application.

**Q. I've submitted all my application materials, what's next?**

A. You will receive an email confirming your submission. From there, CNAY begins an extensive review process with external and internal parties. The external review is comprised of professionals and representatives from tribal communities throughout the country. The internal review is completed by staff of the Center for Native American Youth.

CNAY will reach out to those chosen for the next round for a phone interview. If you were not selected for a phone interview, you will still be contacted to serve as a [Generation Indigenous Ambassador](#). Following phone interviews, five Champions for Change will be notified before January 1, 2020.

**Q. What are the obligations for my year as a Champion for Change?**

A. Champions for Change will spend their year receiving support and resources for their work. Champions will be flown to Washington DC in February 2020 for a series of recognition events and trainings and be able to meet with their respected members of congress. Champions will serve on CNAY's Youth Advisory Board and guide the Center for Native American Youth on programming. Champions will have the opportunity to travel and speak on behalf of CNAY as Champions for Change.

Throughout the year, Champions are required to be in good communication with CNAY staff. This comes in the form of emails, group check-ins, and survey completion. In addition, CNAY strives to provide various platforms for all Champions. This includes conferences, media placements, and panel events to highlight your work.

**Q. Are there rules and guidelines while being a Champion for Change?**

A. Champions for Change represent the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute as well as their communities. [Please review the Code of Conduct here for clarity on the expectations of all Champs.](#)