



Sample Youth SAG Member Job Description:

The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) which was established in 1974 provides crucial support for state programs and empower the states to make dynamic changes by providing core protections to youth and their families:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO);
- Adult Jail and Lock-Up Removal (Jail Removal);
- Sight and Sound Separation; and
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED).

The Act is one of the few pieces of legislation that empowers and places responsibility on states in order to combat racial inequality. For more information on the JJDP or core protections visit <http://www.act4jj.org/what-jjdp>

Congress has long recognized the importance of youth voice and the expertise of those who have gone through the juvenile justice system (whether probation, diversion, correction, or other placements) and as a result at least one-fifth of the members of the State Advisory Group must be under the age of 28 at the time of their initial appointment; and at least three members must currently be or previously have been under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. In situations where this isn't possible, states are permitted to appoint a parent or guardian of someone with direct lived experience in the youth justice system.

The Youth Member position is an appointment that lasts [insert duration of your state or territory's SAG appointment] years and is eligible for reappointment. Youth Members will be responsible for attending [insert state or territory's meeting requirements here] meetings following attendance requirements and bylaws. In this position, youth members will have the power and authority to help create meaningful change in how a state operates its juvenile justice system, policy, and have the opportunity to enhance their communities.

During their appointment of service to the State Advisory Group a youth will contribute to a variety of work projects, including helping to craft the state's three-year plan on juvenile justice, and assisting with recommendations to the governor's office. Opportunities to serve on subcommittees and assist with other projects may also be available.

A prospective youth member may be invited by their state or contact their local State Advisory Support Staff in order to learn more about their respective State Advisory Group. Please visit <https://www.juvjustice.org/about-us/state-advisory-group-members>, select your state, and the corresponding contact information should be available, or email Coalition of Juvenile Justice at info@juvjustice.org for more information and networking opportunities. [State should also insert additional relevant contact information here directly.]

Pay: [States and territories should insert here any information related to pay and travel stipends for young people who are part of their SAG.]

Requirements:

1. Have a strong interest or passion for improving the state's juvenile justice system. The ideal candidate will have some experience in the juvenile justice system, but it is not a requirement
2. Attend SAG meetings. [Insert frequency of your state or territory's meetings here.] May require additional meetings that youth members should be highly encouraged to attend, including subcommittees such as the Youth Committee, Racial and Ethnic Disparities committee, etc.)
3. Actively participate in projects that are assigned and volunteered for.
4. Youth Members will complete all required paperwork promptly including [insert documentation that is required by your state or territory on a regular basis, including frequency and deadlines for submissions.]
5. Youth appointees are typically between the ages of 16 and 28.

Benefits:

1. Youth who participate are given opportunities to create professional contacts within the juvenile justice system and other fields. As a member of the SAG, youth will have the opportunity to directly change policy and procedure that affect youth.
2. Opportunity to build your resume and gain firsthand experience within the juvenile justice system while being able to learn about other systems in place and how they interact with the juvenile justice system.
3. Giving back to the community and implementing programming, resources, and projects that are vital for a community to thrive and overcome adversity.

To learn more [insert state agency contact and/or website link where interested youth can learn more. States and territories should also include in this section any application deadlines, time frames for review, and other information unique to your state or territory that would be useful for an applicant to know].