



Now Taking Applications!
**Wellness Support Consultants for
National Foster Youth Institute's 2025 Conference
June 6-13, 2025**

Thank you for your interest in supporting **NFYI's 2025 Shadow Week Conference** as a **Mental Health Professional**. This role provides emotional and psychological support to young adult conference participants, ensuring a safe and affirming environment as they navigate high-level advocacy spaces. During this week, you'll connect with inspiring foster youth activists and support their efforts to transform their lives and the child welfare system.

About NFYI: The National Foster Youth Institute empowers current and former foster youth, their families, and communities to use their lived experiences to bring about systemic policy changes in the child welfare system nationwide.

About the Shadow Week Conference: NFYI's Congressional Leadership Academy (CLA) ensures that the expertise of foster youth is not just heard, but is centered in shaping national child welfare policy. CLA connects young leaders from across the country with Members of Congress to bridge the gap between lived experience and legislation. During this nine-month program, a group of current and former foster youth (between ages 18 and 30) from around the country gain the tools to transform personal challenges into lasting change — both for themselves and for future generations.

A key component of CLA is the **Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day experience** ("Shadow Week" for short!), held each summer in Washington, DC. This week-long immersive experience connects CLA participants with Members of Congress, Congressional staffers, policy experts, and peers, providing behind-the-scenes insight into the legislative process while offering policymakers critical perspectives on the realities of child welfare. During the Shadow Week Conference, participants receive training in valuable skills, build community, and visit Congress.

About Our Wellness Space: DJay's Corner is a flexible wellness space that we hold at the Shadow Week conference, offering a quiet retreat wherever it's needed so that program participants can seek support in working through a challenging moment or simply take a break from a stimulating environment. This may mean talking to a staff member trained in trauma-informed care or doing a quiet activity, meditating, or listening to soothing music. The staff, all licensed clinical social workers, help participants learn new coping skills and provide support in managing big emotions or intense experiences. Snacks and drinks are always plentiful. DJay's Corner staffers are also on call throughout the conference, ready to truly meet program participants where they are, no matter the time or the physical location of the youth who needs support.

About DJay's Corner Staff (Mental Health Consultants): DJay's Corner staff will be **required to stay on-site at the conference hotel** and will be available overnight to be on-call on a rotating basis. They will also complete a **two-hour virtual introductory session** two weeks



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prior to the conference. Their role is to create a welcoming environment where participants can pause, reflect, and access tools that promote well-being. By fostering a space for grounding and self-care, DJay's Corner staff help ensure that every participant feels heard and empowered to navigate their experience with confidence.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Facilitate a supportive wellness space** where conference participants can take a break, decompress, and reset.
- **Assist in group discussions or debrief sessions** by offering grounding techniques and emotional regulation strategies.
- **Provide strategies and tools** to help participants manage stress, process challenging moments, and show up fully in advocacy spaces.
- **Be on-call during designated hours** to ensure accessibility for participants who may need additional wellness support.
- **Stay on-site at the conference hotel** to be readily available for participants throughout the event.
- **Collaborate with NFYI staff** to identify moments where participants may need additional support navigating the program's demands.
- **Support participant engagement** by ensuring they feel heard and equipped to contribute meaningfully to discussions and activities.
- **Model and encourage self-care practices** that participants can use beyond the conference setting.

Requirements:

- Experience providing clinical support to current or former foster youth or similar populations.
- Experience providing culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed care to diverse communities.
- Warm, intuitive, and collaborative in your approach and an ability to build rapport quickly.
- Strong documentation skills and an ability to maintain thorough records about support provided throughout the week.
- Willingness to abide by NFYI's community agreements, core values, and conference rules.
- Ability to attend virtual prep session prior to the event.

Compensation: For this temporary contract position, NFYI pays a flat fee of \$2,750 and covers all travel, ground transportation, lodging, and meal expenses during the one-week conference.

To Apply: [Please fill out this form](#) if you're interested in joining our work to lift up foster youth voices. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they come in, however, due to the quickly approaching conference, we ask that they be submitted by April 11. Applications received after April 11 will be reviewed and may be considered for future opportunities.