

NJCLD Application for Membership

An organization seeking membership in the NJCLD shall submit the following two documents to the NJCLD Chair at Chair@NJCLD.org:

1. A letter of interest, and
2. A completed NJCLD Membership Application.

An NJCLD Membership Application requires the following information:

1. A statement of agreement to support the mission of the NJCLD. ¹
2. A statement of agreement to support the definition of learning disabilities developed and adopted by the NJCLD. (all NJCLD papers, documents, reports, resources and products are developed based on the NJCLD Definition of Learning Disabilities [Adopted 1990; Updated 2016]).
3. Historical information supporting the number of years that the organization has been in existence
4. Submission of a copy of the organization's constitution, articles, and/or bylaws.
5. Written proof that the organization is nationally or internationally based and is a nonprofit organization in the United States.
6. Details of the organization's membership indicating if the organization is an individual membership organization—and if so, indicating how many total members are in each membership category.
7. A written document showing that the organization is either (a) an individual-membership organization or (b) a non-individual-membership organization that has as its primary mission or purpose a focus on individuals with learning disabilities.
8. A written document highlighting that the organization, or subgroup within the organization, has as a major purpose to improve the quality of education, programs, and services for individuals with learning disabilities.
9. Submission of written documentation and explicit examples of activities relevant to learning disabilities over the preceding 3 years demonstrating that the organization has a commitment and capacity to improve the quality of education, programs, and services for individuals with learning disabilities (e.g., through activities such as developing and disseminating position statements and information, identifying research and service delivery needs, or providing services and/or programs).

¹The required statements noted in #'s 1, 2 and 12 may be fulfilled by submission of a copy of the minutes of a Board meeting with a resolution supporting these requirements or a letter from an authorized individual stating the support of these requirements by the organization.

10. Provide the list of the current officers and members of the Board of Directors (i.e., governing board) and Advisory Boards (if applicable).
11. Provide a chart or other resource that depicts the organization's structure.
12. A statement of support indicating a commitment to NJCLD activities. This statement includes the following:
 - a. Have a minimum of one representative from the organization participate in all NJCLD meetings (each Member Organization may have up to three representatives to the NJCLD).
 - b. Pay annual dues (currently \$350 per year).
 - c. Disseminate NJCLD products via the organization's communication vehicles.
 - d. Work collaboratively with other NJCLD Member Organizations on issues related to learning disabilities.

Upon receipt of a complete NJCLD Membership Application, the following actions shall happen:

1. The representatives from all Member Organizations in Good Standing shall have the opportunity to review the NJCLD Membership Application;
2. The Chair shall invite the applicant to present at the next NJCLD meeting in person or virtually (*with all expenses paid by the applicant organization*);
3. The NJCLD Membership Application shall be considered at the next NJCLD Business Meeting, and the vote shall be taken on whether to approve the applicant's request for membership; and
4. The Chair shall then inform the applicant of the NJCLD decision on its application to be a Member Organization.

(Approved October 4, 2004; Updated 2020)

NJCLD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJCLD) is to provide multi-organizational leadership and resources to optimize outcomes for individuals with learning disabilities.

To pursue its mission, the NJCLD will:

- facilitate communication, collaboration, and consensus among member organizations;
- identify and address needs in research, policy, and professional education and development related to learning disabilities;
- provide an interdisciplinary forum to increase communication and understanding among educational organizations, communities, and governmental agencies at the national, state, and local levels;

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- act as an advocate and make recommendations on key issues affecting individuals with learning disabilities; and
- develop and disseminate papers, statements, reports, and other resources in the area of learning disabilities to clarify issues, influence policy, improve practice, and increase knowledge.

(Approved 2016; Updated 2020)

NJCLD DEFINITION OF LEARNING DISABILITIES

Learning disabilities is a general term that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical abilities. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual, presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction, and may occur across the life span. Problems in self-regulatory behaviors, social perception, and social interaction may exist with learning disabilities but do not by themselves constitute a learning disability. Although learning disabilities may occur concomitantly with other disabilities (for example, sensory impairment, intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance), or with extrinsic influences (such as cultural or linguistic differences, insufficient or inappropriate instruction), they are not the result of those conditions or influences. (Adopted 1990; Updated 2016)

Learn more about the NJCLD at www.njcld.org.