NAMI National is happy to announce a Multicultural Leadership Conference to take place March 28th to the 30th in St. Louis, MO beginning at 4pm on Friday and ending at 1pm on Sunday.

NAMI's 2007-2010 Strategic Plan identifies embracing and empowering leaders and members from diverse communities as one of its key strategies to move from good to great. This conference marks a step forward in NAMI's effort to become a diverse organization and to build and support its multicultural leadership. The conference offers NAMI state and affiliates an opportunity to learn, network, and share best practices in multicultural initiatives. Furthermore, it provides a platform to highlight and strengthen NAMI's multicultural leaders.

Based on input from NAMI's Multicultural Leaders Groups, we have identified 3 major focus areas for this conference:

- policy and advocacy
- cultural competence
- multicultural outreach planning and implementation

Most importantly, the conference will include a hands-on planning session where participants will develop and draft strategies to take back to their NAMI office.

Who Should Apply

We are inviting NAMI state and affiliate offices with demonstrated commitment to multicultural inclusion to apply. Interested states and affiliates are asked to identify a delegation to represent them at the event. This is a competitive process in which delegations will be selected based on current capacity and/or commitment to diversity and inclusion. Particular attention will be give to applicant delegations that include members of NAMI's Multicultural Leaders Groups.

In addition, NAMI National will have a few slots available to invite individual participants to attend.

Interested state/affiliate offices need to:

1. Designate 2 people to represent them at the conference. Delegations need to be representative of the NAMI state/affiliate multicultural efforts. Ideal representatives include: multicultural state/affiliate leaders (BOD members, Consumer Council representatives, program leaders, etc.) and outreach/diversity staff. We also encourage participation from executive directors or BOD presidents.

2. Fill out an application form and mail it along with a letter of support from the NAMI state/affiliate board of directors to NAMI's Multicultural Action Center no later than January, 28th.

Travel Stipends
We are extremely pleased to offer each conference participant a travel stipend for the conference. The amount of the travel stipends will be allocated based on travel distance to the conference. The stipend will cover airfare costs and the cost of a shared hotel room for 2 nights. To allocate the travel dollars as widely as possible, we request that all participants share hotel rooms. We will assign you a roommate (preferably from your state) and will make your hotel reservation for you.

If you wish to have your own room, you may do so by covering half your room cost. We will still make your hotel reservation for you but we will instruct the hotel to charge half the room cost to NAMI and half to you.

Stipends do not include incidentals. Please note that several meals will be provided free of charge during the event (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast).

Without exceptions, stipends for air travel will be mailed to NAMI offices which will be in charge of making all travel arrangements for their delegates.

All applicants will be notified by February, 8th
If your delegation is selected to attend, the designated contact person will receive the registration forms, a questionnaire to be filled out by all attendees, and additional information related to the conference (hotel information, preliminary agenda, etc). Stipends will be sent to the NAMI state/affiliate offices after we receive the completed registration forms and questionnaires.

Additional requirements:
1. All applicants must be NAMI members.
2. All delegations must submit a one-page report on the delegation's experience at the Conference within 2 weeks of the conclusion of the conference. This report is your opportunity to give us feedback on any aspect of the convention and should include how the NAMI office plans to use the information learned and the strategies drafted by the delegation during the conference.

If you have any questions about the Multicultural Leadership Conference, please email Majose@nami.org.

Applications are due January 28th.
Awards will be announced by February 8th.

NAMI Multicultural Leadership Conference
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Application Form

Please type or print clearly

For a Word format version of this application, please send your request to marin@nami.org

State/affiliate NAMI: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____Fax: _____

Email: _____

1) Does your NAMI state/affiliate office have a Strategic Plan? ___Yes___No
If yes, does it include diversity, multicultural outreach, or cultural competence as a goal or objective? ___ Yes ___No
If yes, what does it say?

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2) Does your state/affiliate NAMI have a multicultural/diversity committee (At the Board, staff, or volunteer level)? __ Yes __No
If yes, how many members does it have and what are their activities?

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3) Describe your state/affiliate's current multicultural efforts (Please be as specific as possible. Make sure to identify the community of focus and the type of activities your effort includes)?

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4) Do you have a staff person or volunteer assigned to lead multicultural initiatives?
____yes ____no

5) Has your state/affiliate received any type of diversity or cultural competence training ___Yes ___No
If yes, please provide the date of the last training: _____

6) Who are your proposed delegates for this conference? (We will consider up to 2 delegates.) Please provide a brief bio for each focusing on their leadership roles and experience with your NAMI office.

Delegate 1
Name:
Leadership role at NAMI (Title):
Address:
Email:
Phone number:
Brief Bio:

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Delegate 2
Name:
Leadership role at NAMI (Title):
Address:
Email:
Phone number:
Brief Bio:

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7) Are any of your delegates members of NAMI's Multicultural Leaders Groups? If yes, please indicate who and which group.

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8) How will your state/affiliate office utilize the information and skills obtained at this conference?

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit your completed application and letter of recommendation to:

NAMI Multicultural Action Center
C/o Marin Swesey
E-mail: marin@nami.org
2107 Wilson Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201
Direct phone: 703-600-1108
Fax: 703-524-9094

*Don't forget to include the letter of support from your NAMI Board.

Application deadline: January 28th, 2008.
Late or incomplete applications will not be considered