



nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness

An Open Message from the NAMI Board President

NAMI is pleased to announce the yearly Call for Candidates for the NAMI National Board of Directors! Five candidates will be elected to each serve a three-year term, replacing current Board members whose terms end in June. People with knowledge, skills, expertise, and life experiences who can contribute effective leadership for growth and impact are encouraged to come forward as Board candidates for 2024.

Expertise and Experience Needed for the 2024-2025 Board

The NAMI Board of Directors seeks highly qualified leaders of all backgrounds and experiences to serve on the National Board. Ultimately, the National Board is charged with ensuring NAMI's effectiveness in advancing its mission. Given the critical responsibilities as directors of a national nonprofit organization, serving on the NAMI Board requires an understanding of the complex legal, fiduciary, and strategic decisions the Board is routinely required to address.

This year, the NAMI Board is highlighting specific skills that they are seeking in candidates to strengthen the current skill sets on the Board.

- **Diversity of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, language, experience, and national geography:** In order to best serve the widely varying needs of the NAMI movement, the Board must constantly strive to reflect the diversity of those impacted by mental illness. The NAMI Board specifically seeks people of color, as well as people living in states/regions currently under-represented. All other domains of diversity are also welcomed and encouraged. Please review the profiles of the Board members continuing into 2024-2025 at www.nami.org/board and consider nominating a person you know who would bring diversity, experience, and skills currently lacking or under-represented on the National Board.
- **Knowledge of the philanthropic community and track record with donor cultivation:** NAMI relies on strong relationships with the philanthropic community in order to continue to grow the movement and deliver on the mission. Board members play an instrumental role as ambassadors and partners in identifying opportunities, engaging new supporters, and cultivating valuable connections.
- **Experience with a variety of revenue models and financial oversight and management:** Given the increasing size and complexity of the organization's budget, the Board must be laser-focused on long-term financial sustainability in service of bringing the NAMI mission to individuals, families, and communities everywhere. Individuals with professional experience in financial management, accounting, banking, trusts, and/or investments are needed to help enhance the expertise of the Board in 2024.
- **Human capital management:** Individuals with professional experience in human resources, personnel development, and management can offer valuable insight to leadership of this rapidly growing and developing organization.
- **Legal and risk management:** NAMI's alliance model includes interdependencies between the national office, state, and local affiliates on a wide variety of topics. Board members with

expertise in legal and risk management professions are needed to advise NAMI leadership on evolving issues related to programs, policies, and infrastructure.

- **Criminal justice**: Individuals with professional and/or lived experience in the criminal justice system (federal, state, or local) are sought to provide insight as NAMI implements this important component of its strategic plan.
- **Experience/expertise with social media**: Individuals with experience/expertise in social media can recommend new and innovative ways to use online platforms to further educate and spread awareness of NAMI's mission.

In addition, the NAMI Bylaws require that a minimum of 75% of the Board be comprised of persons who have or have had mental illness, or parents or their relatives thereof, including civil and domestic partners (Article IV § 2). To ensure compliance with this requirement, all candidates are asked to identify if they have either had lived experience of mental illness or are a family member of someone with lived experience. Because all currently seated Board members for the 2023-2024 term do self-identify under this definition, nominations of those who do not have lived experience as an individual or as a family member are welcomed to this 2024 election cycle.

When Considering a Nomination

Service on the NAMI Board is a fulfilling experience. We invite able and experienced leaders from all walks of life to join us in this remarkable journey—and we thank the thousands of NAMI members who inspire and focus us in our work.

We encourage those who are considering seeking election to contact us at voting@nami.org with any questions. Thank you for all that you do, every day, to support NAMI!

- Learn more about NAMI Board Service [here](#), and review the [election information 2024 document](#) for candidacy requirements.
- More information about the 2024 NAMI Elections will be posted regularly at www.nami.org/2024elections.