



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Membership Categories

- **NIDCAP Training Centers**

NIDCAP Training Centers are affiliated with the NFI as members and pay annual fees. Voting rights are only for individuals who are Professional Members; therefore Training Centers do not vote as a Center however each Center's NFI Members may vote as individual Members.

- **Professional Members**

- A. NIDCAP Professionals
- B. NIDCAP Trainers
- C. NIDCAP Trainers-in-Training
- D. NIDCAP Training Center Directors
- E. Members of the Board of Directors
- F. Persons who are supportive of the NFI mission and objectives, are closely associated with NIDCAP work, and are nominated by a Center Director, Trainer or Director of the Board.

- **Professional in Training Members**

Anyone who is currently working toward NIDCAP or APIB certification must enroll in the NFI as a Professional-in-Training. Trainers must verify this training status. As part of the training agreement one is expected to change membership status from Professional in Training to Professional Member once certification is achieved.

- **Allied Members**

Allied is a non-voting membership open to any individual interested in the Mission, Vision and Goals of the NFI who is not currently working in a NIDCAP related position.

- **Family Members**

Family Membership is open to any parent or extended family member who supports the mission and goals of the NFI and who has an infant who is or was admitted to an intensive care nursery. Individuals who were once themselves admitted to a NICU and who support the mission and goals of the NFI may also be Family Members.

Special categories:

- **Honorary Members**

Honorary Membership may be bestowed upon any individual not previously a member of the NFI who has made significant contributions to the NFI or the NIDCAP approach directly or through work in a related field. One may be nominated for Honorary Membership by a Director of the Board of Directors, NIDCAP Training Center Director, or NIDCAP Trainer. Nominations are made to the Membership Committee to be brought to the full Board for vote. Majority vote by members in attendance or via proxy is required for approval. Honorary Members will receive the full NFI benefits. There are no dues assessed to Honorary Members.

(Adopted April 2009, revised April 2021)

- **Emeritus Members**

Emeritus Membership status may be bestowed upon any retired NFI member who has made significant contributions to the NFI or the NIDCAP approach. One may be nominated for Emeritus status by a Director on the Board of Directors, a NIDCAP Training Center Director, or by a NIDCAP Trainer. Nominations are made to the NFI Membership Committee to be brought to the full Board for vote. Majority vote by Directors of the Board of Directors in attendance or via proxy vote is needed. Members with Emeritus status will receive full benefits of membership to the NFI. The requirement for dues will be suspended for life.

(Adopted April 2009, revised April 2021)

Application Process

To become a member one must apply or be nominated, be accepted by the NFI Membership Committee, and pay annual membership dues.

Membership Responsibilities and Benefits

The NFI Membership year extends from October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year.

Membership Responsibilities

- Training Centers must pay an annual center fee as determined by the Board.
- Professional Members, Allied and Family Members must pay annual membership dues in the amount and by the deadline determined by the Board.

- The conditions to maintain good standing in the NFI are as follows:
 - Maintain active involvement in NIDCAP work and the NFI and abide by the highest professional standards
 - Maintain full commitment to the goals and principles of NIDCAP work
 - Adhere to the policies of the NFI
 - Pay dues levied by the NFI in a timely manner unless an application for alternate payment arrangements or request for Special Consideration is submitted.
 - Failure to comply with the conditions of in-good-standing results in a loss of good standing and loss of benefits until the matter is resolved with the Board. It is at the Board's discretion to accept petitions or determine any additional steps and criteria that must be met to restore good standing. Specifics of such steps are negotiated with the Board.

Membership Special Considerations: Member Support (Hardship Requests)

- In the event that payment of dues or center fees presents a hardship, one may apply for a special payment plan. Members may also apply for special considerations for dues or other NFI Member financial requirements (such as meeting registration) to the Board. Such applications are to be allocated from the NFI Member Support budget category of the fiscal year when such payment was expected. The application must be submitted to the Chair of the Membership Sub-Committee prior to the payment due date. Acceptance of the payment plan or special consideration application is at the discretion of the Board.

Membership Benefits

All members may join the "Members Only" NFI listserv.

- **Professional, Family, Emeritus and Honorary Membership Benefits**
 - Enjoy the full support of the NFI
 - Have access to the Membership Page on the NFI web site
 - Have access to the educational materials on the "Learning Resource" page on the website.
 - May be listed in the NFI Certified NIDCAP Professionals List on the NFI website
 - Receive NFI publications
 - Access to NFI listserv
 - May attend the annual Members Meeting
 - Invitation to the annual education conference
 - Vote on NFI matters
 - May serve on the NFI Board of Directors
 - Receive an NFI pin

- **Professional in Training Membership Benefits**

- Enjoy the full support of the NFI
- Have access to the “Membership Page” on the NFI web site
- Have access to the educational materials on the “Learning Resource” page on the website.
- May be listed as Student Members on the NFI website
- Receive NFI publications
- Access to NFI listserv
- May attend annual Members Meeting
- Invitation to the annual education conference
- Receive an NFI pin

- **Allied Membership Benefits**

- Enjoy the full support of the NFI
- Have access to the “Membership Page” on the NFI web site
- Have limited access to the educational materials on the “Learning Resource” page on the website.
- Receive NFI publications
- Access to NFI listserv
- May attend annual Members Meeting
- Invitation to the annual education conference
- Receive an NFI pin