

SRCD US Policy Fellowship: How to Find a State Placement

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1:00 PM ET

Presenter



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Director for Policy
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Designed with leading policy and academic experts, the Child Policy Hub gives SRCD members unprecedented new ways to improve evidence-based policy:

- learn in policy trainings
- network with policymakers directly
- hear from esteemed scholars
- answer questions policymakers are asking in real-time.



Answer Congress' research questions in real time.

A suite of new and improved trainings and professional development offerings.



Resources for you to build your policy capacity.

A new resource hub for SRCD policy briefs. Quarterly briefs will be posted here.



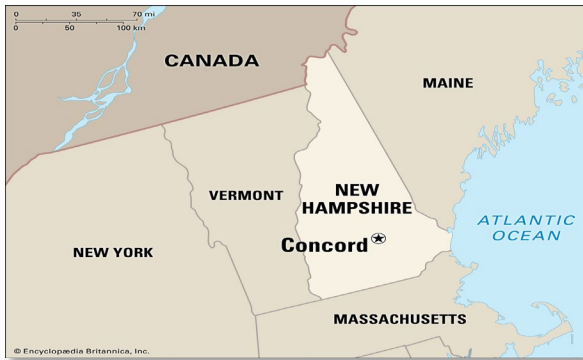
SRCD continues to advocate for our members on our key priority areas.

Four Placements



State agencies

Work in a state capitol on the implementation side of policy, assisting in the design, implementation or analysis for program evaluation that reach young children and families.



New Hampshire

Be in the NH Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration, assisting in the planning and implementation of early childcare programs in the state.



U.S. Congress

Be in the room where it happens. Use your expertise to assess legislation's impact on young children, advise on policy, draft memos, and more. Work in fast-paced setting, on multiple projects.



Federal agencies

Live in Washington, D.C. while you develop research funding, support regulatory processes, provide technical assistance to childcare programs, and more, depending on the office.

Why apply?



“Participating in the fellowship was one of the best decisions of my career. I learned the details of how early childhood policy programs are designed and delivered... I could not have learned that if I had stayed in academia.”

Stephanie Curenton, Federal Agency Fellow (2002-2003)

With almost 250 alumni over our 30+ years of success, our alumni are some of the most influential researchers in developmental science, senior staff at federal and state agencies, and philanthropic leaders. The fellowship started in the Carter era and is still as strong as ever today.

In 2023 and 2024:

- ✓ **100%** of fellows said they would recommend this program to others
- ✓ **100%** believe that the program helped them advance their career goals.

Fellowship Support



Generous stipend, along with allowances for relocation, health insurance, and professional development



Significant networking with other fellows



Trainings and monthly webinars



Career expo and networking to find and consider alternative paths



Individualized professional development planning and monthly mentorship



Couch Family
Foundation



HEISING-SIMONS
FOUNDATION

What do fellows learn?



"It was the most fun year of my life..."

The office was looking to me to speak to the child development work. It was a very empowering experience to be involved in the policymaking process that way."

Alaina Flannigan, Congressional Fellow in a post-election Congress (2017-2018)

- ✓ How policy is developed and implemented at different levels of government.
- ✓ How to work with different stakeholders in the policy and research world.
- ✓ Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues in policy systems.
- ✓ Research needs of different types of policymakers.
- ✓ How to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with different audiences.
- ✓ How to ask policy relevant research questions to address priority problems.
- ✓ The range of alternative career opportunities for researchers interested in policy.

Eligibility for State Placements

- **Members** of SRCD.
- **Doctoral-level degree** (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D.) relevant to child development by August 31, 2025.
- **Citizenship** – For state agencies, citizenship varies depending on the state agency's rules; applicants must confirm with state agencies before applying. New Hampshire does not require citizenship. No work visas will be sponsored for any placement type.
- **Expertise** - state placements must be focused on young children ages birth through 8 and their families.

NEW! A Dedicated State Placement in Concord, New Hampshire!



- How the application process is different:
 - **New this year!** You can either apply to New Hampshire or any other state (you can't apply to both NH and bring another state partner).
- You can still apply to other placement types (Congressional/federal).
- You do **not** need to reach out to New Hampshire first. If you are successful after the written and SRCD interview stages, you'll then interview with New Hampshire in February/March.



Finding a State Placement



“Do not let a lack of experience in policy stop you from applying. The fellowship is designed to help you build those skills. Also, if you are interested in the State Policy Fellowship but do not have a connection with someone who works in a State government, don’t be afraid to reach out to someone new through an email! It never hurts to ask!”

Isabella Sciuto Ozenbaugh, SRCD State Policy Fellow, Oregon, 2023-2025.

For other states, use these tools on our website:

- List of Agency Contacts – state agencies who are interested in hosting a fellow
- Education Commission list of early childhood agencies – every possible state agency
- Flier – a downloadable PDF you can use when approaching an agency



Society for Research
in Child Development

Tips on reaching out to a state

In your email:

- Keep it short and concise! Lengthy emails might be ignored.
- Introduce yourself and the fellowship briefly in about 2-3 sentences.
 - Don't reinvent the wheel! Copy/paste information from our website or our FAQ flier (available on our State Agency website page!)
 - Emphasize that there is no cost to the agency
- Request a 30-minute time to talk.
- Attach:
 - The State Agency FAQ document on our website
 - Your CV



Tips on reaching out to a state, ctd.

Before a call:

- Be prepared to talk about how your strengths and experience can help the agency
- Ask about what projects they have – and be open to ideas that are outside of your comfort zone!
- Have the Letter of Support criteria (on our How to Apply page) ready, so agencies know what they must do to support your application



List of Agency Contacts

Want More Options to Find a State?

We will accept other states too, so don't limit yourself if your state isn't on our list. Use this list of all early childhood state agencies to start a conversation in your state:

[ALL U.S. STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD AGENCIES](#)

[FIND A STATE PLACEMENT – WEBINAR \(NOVEMBER 2024\)](#)

Find more info on our webpage [here!](#)



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES
Your education policy team.

50-State Comparison specific division, office or unit

November 2020

Listed below are the primary entities and the specific divisions, offices and units that oversee early care and education programs and services. To view other data points click [here](#).

STATE	EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMPONENTS	NAME OF THE PRIMARY OVERSIGHT ENTITY (PARENT AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION)	DIVISION, OFFICE OR UNIT	WEBSITE
Alabama				
	Child Care Development Fund	Alabama Department of Human Resources		Link
	Head Start Collaboration Office	Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education		Link
	State Funded Pre-Kindergarten	Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education		Link
	Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting	Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education		Link
	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services		Link
STATE	EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMPONENTS	NAME OF THE PRIMARY OVERSIGHT ENTITY (PARENT AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION)	DIVISION, OFFICE OR UNIT	WEBSITE
	Preschool Development Grants	Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education		Link
	Kindergarten-3rd Grade	Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education	P-3 Initiative	Link
	Quality Rating Improvement System	Alabama Department of Human Resources		Link
	State Longitudinal Data System	State does not have a SLDs		N/A
Alaska				
	Child Care Development Fund	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	Division of Public Assistance, Child Care Program Office	Link
	Head Start Collaboration Office	Alaska Department of Education and Early Development	Head Start Collaboration Office	Link
	State Funded Pre-Kindergarten	Alaska Department of Education and Early Development		Link
	Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	Office of Children's Services	Link
	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	Senior and Disabilities Services	Link
	Preschool Development Grants	Alaska Department of Education and Early Development		Link
	Kindergarten-3rd Grade	Alaska Department of Education and Early Development		Link
	Quality Rating Improvement System	Learn & Grow		Link

Meet New Hampshire

Opportunity in New Hampshire



Chris Santaniello, Associate Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Health and
Human Services

- Some of the responsibilities of the Fellow are listed below:
 - Assist in the strategic planning and statewide implementation of continuous quality improvement efforts for children and families served and for early care and education programs and providers.
 - Assist in the identification and conceptualization of innovative and accountable approaches to the implementation of newly enacted federal rules, which NH – like other states – will be expected to implement in full during the Fellow’s tenure.
 - Support continued exploration of governance and financing models, inclusive of mixed-delivery systems, leading to a comprehensive, quality, affordable, and accessible early care and education and out of school time care system.

Chris Santaniello

Associate Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of
Health and Human Services

Christine.I.Santaniello@dhhs.nh.gov

603.271.5023

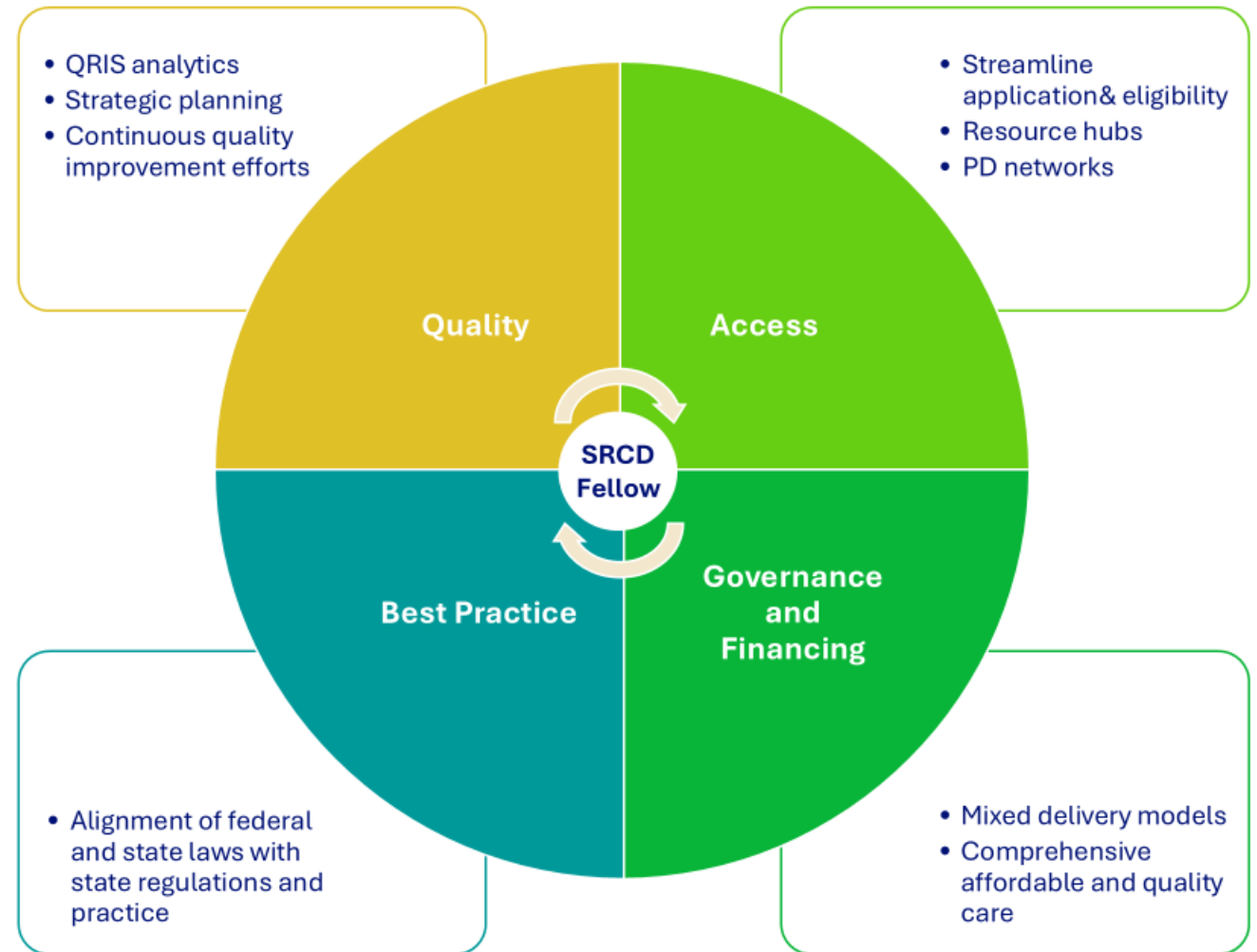
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>

[Find DHHS on Facebook](#)



New Hampshire DHHS:

- Comprehensive Organization, serving individuals and families birth through the lifespan, including [Child Development & Head Start Collaboration](#)
- [Department Roadmap](#) guides our work
- Coordinate **cross program innovation** and resources through an Early Childhood Integration Team
- Working with **community partners**, other state agencies lead a Statewide Leadership Team for Childcare
- NH ranked as the **#1 state** in the country for child well-being



NH Department of Health & Human Services

Mission: To join communities and families in providing opportunities for citizens to achieve health and independence.

Meet Representatives from State Agencies



Dr. Lillie Moffett
(SRCED State Policy Fellow 2021-2023)
Education Research and Evaluation Consultant
Early Education Division, CDE
lmoffett@cde.ca.gov

- California Department of Education (CDE)
- **Potential Topics:** Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) implementation, supporting multilingual learners, supporting children with disabilities, supporting racially-marginalized learners, quality improvement, and preventing suspension and expulsion
- The California Department of Education oversees the largest state subsidized preschool program in the nation, and recently expanded access to the state's public school TK program to all 4-year-old children.

Fellowship Opportunities

CDEC Divisions -

- Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
- Colorado Universal Preschool
- Early Learning Licensing and Administration
- Early Childhood Workforce
- Community and Family Support
 - Family Strengthening
 - Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Early Intervention



Kendra Dunn
Deputy Director, Office of Program Delivery
kendra.dunn@state.co.us

ALL COLORADO CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, AND EARLY
CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONALS ARE
VALUED, HEALTHY
AND THRIVING.



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood



Department of Early Education and Care Massachusetts

Jocelyn Bowne

Deputy Commissioner for Workforce, Program
Supports and Innovation

Jocelyn.bowne@mass.gov

EEC Strategic Objectives

In partnership with families, educators, programs and other stakeholders, EEC will use data driven decision-making to inform work around the following objectives:



FAMILY ACCESS

Families have equitable access to quality and affordable early education and care in the communities in which they live, learn, and work.



PROGRAM QUALITY

Programs licensed or funded by EEC support children's health and safety and provide high quality environments that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and support children's learning and development in partnership with families.



PROGRAM STABILITY

Programs licensed or funded by EEC are operationally stable and financially sustainable.



WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

A diverse field of educators, leaders, and program staff is competitively compensated and supported by clear professional pathways that promote quality, retention, and advancement.



AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

EEC has sufficient internal capacity, organizational structures, and diverse perspectives and expertise to carry out its mission and strategic objectives.



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

Data, Analysis, & Research Office



Jaiya Choles, Ph.D.
Senior Data Analyst

jaiya.choles@delc.oregon.gov

The fellow will be placed in DELC's Data, Analysis, and Research Office and primarily work on policy and research projects related to state-funded early learning programs for children from birth through age five. Specific project opportunities will be determined based on fellow interest and can include:

- Using data collected from DELC's early learning programs to evaluate program policy and implementation practices.
- Supporting DELC's standup of its data governance structure and/or Tribal data sovereignty and associated policies, processes, and procedures.
- Assisting in planning and implementation of two federal Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation (OPRE) grants.
- Supporting DELC's development of a strategic research agenda to guide the agency's approach to using research and data to inform decision-making.
- Supporting DELC and other partner agencies in using data to inform Oregon's implementation of Raise Up Oregon, a cross-sector early childhood system strategic plan.
- Supporting the stand-up of a key performance measures system for DELC or DELC programs.

DELC is a young and growing standalone early learning agency. This is a unique opportunity to be part of building a strong foundation for our work and shaping the future of early care and education in Oregon.

The Division of Early Learning (DEL)

- The mission of DEL is to provide leadership and coordination to ensure that all District of Columbia children, from birth to kindergarten entrance, have access to high-quality early childhood development programs and are well prepared for school.
 - Child care licensing, subsidy and quality initiatives
 - Universal pre-kindergarten
 - Early intervention, Part C
 - Quality Improvement Network



Dr. Kathryn Kigera
Director, Quality Initiatives
Kathryn.Kigera@dc.gov



Emily Laidlaw serves as the Deputy Director for Early Education at MiLEAP where she oversees the department's efforts to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education. Emily has worked for nearly 20 years in education policy, advocacy, and government affairs, and she previously served as Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Director of Policy and Education Advisor. She has also held roles in the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators and the Michigan House of Representatives.

Reach out to Emily via email: laidlawe1@michigan.gov

MiLEAP's Charge: Create a path to prosperity for every Michigander and support the long-term economic health of our state with a coordinated strategy from preschool through postsecondary.

What will a SRCD fellow do?

- Strategize and implement solutions for **Child Development and Care** eligibility from application process to redetermination.
- Improve **inclusive environments** for young learner
- Support implementation for **PreK for All**, Michigan's universal PreK initiative, focusing on implementing new home based pilot sites and innovative models for expansion

SRCD Policy alum from this state: Dr. Lara Markowitz

MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)



Dr. Shaneen D. Moore, MBA

- Assistant Commissioner, Family Well-Being Administration
- Contact Email: shaneen.moore@state.mn.us

Fellowship Opportunity with DCYF

- Working on policies issues that identify cross collaborative opportunities in serving children, youth, and families in the following administrations within DCYF:
 - Family Well-Being: Child Support, SNAP, and TANF (MFIP in Minnesota)
 - Child Safety and Permanency: Child Welfare and Foster Care
 - Early Childhood: Early Learning Services and Child Care Services
 - Economic Opportunity and Youth Services: Office of Economic Opportunity and Office of Youth Justice, Office of Restorative Practices, and After School Community Learning Grant
- **Areas of Focus:**
 - Centering equity and racial equity in serving DCYF families in a holistic way through engagement, recognizing the importance of lived experience.
 - Policy implementation utilizing a Whole-Family Systems Framework and Human Centered design principles and practices.
- **DCYF – new established state agency on July 1, 2024 – centering on children and families**
 - **Vision:** A Minnesota where all children, youth, and families are valued, treated equitably, and thriving.
 - **Mission:** To advance equitable outcomes for children, youth, and families through transformative, partnership-driven policies, programs, and practices.

NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services

- Oversees NYS implementation of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); Regulates all licensed in New York State (except NYC day care centers; Administers the \$1B Child Care Assistance Program; Administers \$100M LEAPS afterschool program and more!
- SRCD Fellow is integrated into ongoing policy work to:
 - Expand child care assistance program to reach more families
 - Define early childhood quality in the licensing system
 - Early childhood workforce support and system building



NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services

- Point of Contact: Deputy Commissioner Nora Yates
- Email: Nora.yates@ocfs.ny.gov
- Website: ocfs.ny.gov





Rhode Island Department of Health

Substance Exposed Newborns Policy Fellowship Scope of Work

Perinatal Peer Recovery Specialists

Analyze other state approaches to using prenatal and postnatal peer recovery specialists to support parents with young children, including: referral pathways, policies and procedures, funding mechanisms, data

Mother-child residential treatment facilities

Identify states with mother-child residential treatment facilities. Collect and analyze their policies and procedures to determine optimal supports for maternal and recovery support.

Prenatal substance use screening

Analyze how/if universal substance use screening policies and practices improve outcomes for prenatal women with substance use disorders.

Deliverables & Tasks: Conduct research & provide a report with concrete recommendations on these three areas; provide suggestions for implementation of any new activities that support families of newborns who were exposed to substances in utero; attend meetings as requested; conduct key informant interviews if requested. Explore any other areas of interest as identified by policy fellow.



Blythe Berger, ScD
Chief, Perinatal & Early
Childhood Health
Blythe.Berger@health.ri.gov

Audience Q&A

Wrap Up!



- State applicants outside of New Hampshire —
 - **Start reaching** out to interested state agencies!
- Scan the QR code and visit [our website](#) for information and resources to assist you on this process!



Applications close on January 6th, 11:59pm ET.

Thank you!