

SRCD US Policy Fellowship: Tips and Tricks for Applying

November 5, 2024

1-2 PM ET

Presenters



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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.

Goals of the Fellowship

1. Increase evidence-based policymaking impacting children and families.
2. Grow the number of trained researchers with policy skills.
3. Build a network of experts who can bridge developmental science, state policymaking, and practice.

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.

In 2023 and 2024:

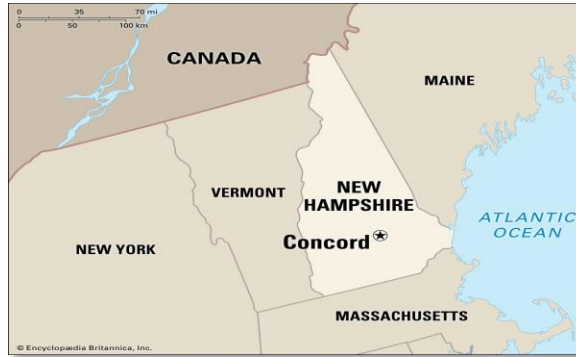
- ✓ **100%** of fellows said they would recommend this program to others
- ✓ **100%** believe that the program helped them advance their career goals.

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.

Fellowship Support



Be financially supported to grow your career. Generous stipend, along with allowances for moving expenses, 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

What do fellows learn?



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

The [Congressional] 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 (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.

Finding a State Placement



- New this year!*** You can either apply to New Hampshire or any other state
- **New Hampshire applicants** do not need to contact the agency before applying (you will interview with them later, if your written application is successful)
 - **For other states**, you must find an interested state agency before applying



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



- [Register](#) for the **Find a State webinar on November 19 at 1 PM ET** to...
- Meet state agencies that would like to host a fellow & hear from former state fellows



Need more help? Contact policy@srcd.org

Tips & Tricks

Who should apply?

You will be most successful if you are eager to learn, are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and are passionate about bringing evidence into the policy space.

SRCD is deeply committed to diversity in all its forms.

We highly encourage fellowship applications from scholars of color, scholars from underrepresented cultural and ethnic backgrounds, scholars from low-income backgrounds, first-generation college graduates, scholars with disabilities, and scholars from the LGBTQIA+ community.



Who is eligible?

- **Members** of SRCD.
- **Doctoral-level degree** (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D.) relevant to child development by August 31, 2025.
- **Citizenship** – must be a US citizen for federal agency and U.S. Congress placements (due to rules at those institutions). For state agencies, citizenship varies; 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** - Congressional and state placements must be focused on young children ages birth through 8 and their families.

What We Are Looking For

- There are 8 core skills that we assess in your application
- More information on the application can be found on our website

1) Expertise in developmental science	+
2) Expertise in research design and methodology	+
3) Openness to growth and learning	+
4) Appreciation for and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)	+
5) Communication	+
6) Critical thinking & creative problem solving	+
7) Initiative-taking	+
8) Reliability	+

Application Timeline

- Applications Open - **October 28, 2024**
- Applications Close - **January 6, 2025**
- Candidates notified for interview – **Around February 6-11, 2025**
- Interviews – **February 24 – March 5, 2025**
- Fellowship offers - **Second or third week of March 2025**



Application Details

Written Stage

- Statement of Interest
- Current CV, including publications and presentations
- Background Questions (in application portal)
- Three Reference Surveys
- Transcript (can be unofficial)
- For State Fellowship applicants who are not applying to New Hampshire: A letter from a state agency certifying that they are willing to host you, if you are selected as an SRCD Fellow

Interview Stage

- Short research presentation on assigned task
- Interview with SRCD panel
- Interviews with potential agencies (federal agency and New Hampshire applicants only)

Tips & Tricks

- Clearly show you understand the goals of the fellowship
 - Review all relevant policy fellowship webpages
 - Read “Spotlight on the SRCD Policy Fellow” features on srcd.org
 - Reach out to former SRCD Policy Fellows
- Tell us why you are interested and what, specifically, you hope to gain from the experience
- Show us how you are open to working on topics and issues outside of your area of expertise
- Be honest in the skills survey – we are not expecting you to have all listed skills or experience

Tips & Tricks

- Do not be afraid to apply if you have no policy experience!
- Reach out for help – especially (but not only) if you are looking for a state agency placement!
- The Fellowship is for people that look like you, whomever you are. You may be early career, mid-career, from a dominant or minoritized group. A diverse group of fellows excel in this program.

Panel of Former Fellows

Meet the Fellows!



Paige Greenwood
Federal Agency Fellow
(2023-2025)
Office of Head Start



Christian Clesi
Congressional Fellow
(2020-2021)
Office of Senator Bob
Casey (D-PA)



Mayra Parada
State Agency Pre-doc Fellow
(2017-2018)
Virginia Department of
Education, Office of
Humanities and Early
Childhood

Applications due January 6, 2025

Application link and more info:

- Application materials and guidance
- Info on alumni and alumni network



<https://www.srcd.org/child-policy-hub/srcd-us-policy-fellowship-program>

Register for the Find a State Agency Webinar – November 19th from 1-2 p.m. ET

- Meet interested agencies & hear from former state fellows



<https://www.srcd.org/event/srcd-us-policy-fellowship-webinar-series-learn-more-and-apply>

Thank you!