



Society for Research in Child Development

# Apply today for the SRCD U.S. Policy Fellowship Program

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SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

# Presenters

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Lindsay Turner Trammell  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Director for Policy  
[ltrammell@srcd.org](mailto:ltrammell@srcd.org)



Jennifer Brooks, PhD  
Fellow Supervisor  
[jbrooks@srcd.org](mailto:jbrooks@srcd.org)

# Goals of the Fellowship

Increase evidence-based policymaking on policy issues impacting children and families.

Grow the number of trained researchers with policy skills.

Build a network of experts who can bridge developmental science, state policymaking, and practice.

# Why apply?

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*“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, Executive 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,

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

# Three placements:

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## 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.



## 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.



## U.S. Congress

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

# Fellowship Support

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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?

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*"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)

- ✓ Implement policy at different levels of government.
- ✓ Working with different stakeholders in the policy and research world.
- ✓ Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues in this nexus, including the systematic factors that sustain or promote inequities.
- ✓ Different research needs that different types of policymakers need.
- ✓ Communicate effectively both orally and in writing with different audiences.
- ✓ Ask policy relevant research questions including how to solve problems.
- ✓ Alternative career path opportunities.

# Find a State Placement

State applicants must find an interested state agency before applying (this helps you be a fellow in the state you live, if moving to D.C. is not possible for you).

Use these tools on our website:

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

Need more help? Contact [policy@srcd.org](mailto:policy@srcd.org)!





# Join an Extensive Network of nearly 250 Fellowship Alumni!

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# The Application

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CHANGES, TIPS, AND TRICKS

# Who should apply?

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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?

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You must be:

- Member of SRCD.
- Doctoral-level degree (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D.) relevant to child development by August 2024.
- Citizenship – must be a US citizen for **federal agency and U.S. Congress placements** (due to rules at those institutions). For state agencies, citizenship can vary; applicants must confirm with state agencies before applying.
- Congressional and state placements must be focused on young children ages birth through 8 and their families.

# Changes to this year's application

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We have made changes to the application this year to ensure the application review process is more equitable:

- Name/institution blind for reviewers
- Clearly defined skills and scoring against those skills
- Increased support to reduce barriers for those interested in applying to the state placement

We have also instituted slight changes to the application process, including

- Moving from narrative recommendation letters to surveys
- Having applicants complete a skills survey
- Including a research task in the interview phase

# What are we looking for in candidates?

## Evaluated Skills

Technical skills (developmental science, research design and methodology)

Openness to growth and learning

Appreciation for and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion

Communication

Critical thinking and creative problem solving

Initiative-taking

Reliability

# Application Process and Components

## Written Application

- Basic information (e.g., demographics, eligibility criteria, )
- Skills survey
- Publications and experience
- Personal statement
- Reference survey (3 references)
- Transcript
- State placement only: Letter of support from the state agency

## Interview Phase for Finalists

- Short presentation on assigned task
- Interviews with SRCD review panel
  - In-person for federal executive branch placements
  - Virtual for Congressional and State
- Interviews with potential agencies (executive branch agencies only)

# Timeline

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| Date                   | Event   |
|------------------------|---|
| January 7, 2024        | Written applications due  |
| February 26 – 30, 2024 | Interviews for finalists (in DC for executive branch)                 |
| March 2024             | Fellowship offers finalized   |
| September 1, 2024      | Fellowship begins<br>(Congressional fellowship placements identified) |



# Tips and Tricks

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Do not be afraid to apply if you have no policy experience!

Be open to working on topics and issues with which you may have no prior experience

Be honest in the skills survey – we are not expecting you to have all listed skills or experience

Tell us why you are interested and what you hope to gain from the experience

Reach out for help – especially (but not only) if you are looking for a state agency placement!

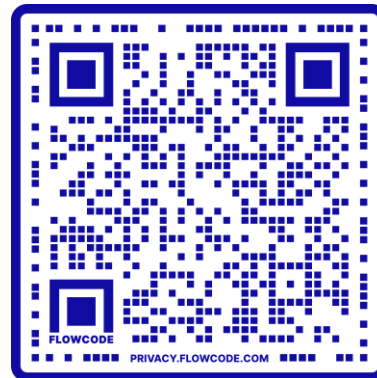
# Applications are due January 7, 2024

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More information on our website:

- ❖ Application materials and guidance
- ❖ More details about placement offices and activities
- ❖ Information about the alumni and alumni network

Email us at [policy@srcd.org](mailto:policy@srcd.org)



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



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