

SRCD State Policy Fellowship Program

There are two types of U.S. state fellowships: **post-doctoral** and **pre-doctoral**. Both state fellowships place fellows in state executive branch agency offices focusing on early childhood programs and policies. They are an immersion experience in policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

About the State Fellowship Program

The SRCD State Policy Fellowship runs from September 1st to August 31st. During the fellowship year, fellows are supported by a placement supervisor within their state executive branch agency and by an academic mentor. Academic mentors for those participating in both the pre- and post-doctoral programs are expected to have backgrounds relevant to research on state early childhood policies and programs.

SRCD expects the state fellowships to provide fellows with opportunities to:

- Gain further understanding of state level early childhood policies and programs.
- Develop skills in mutual communication between researchers and policymakers.
- Gain insight into how research can be used to inform policymaking and policy implementation at the state level.

The State Fellowship Program aims to:

1. Provide fellows at different levels of study and career development with firsthand experience in state policymaking, program implementation, and evaluation.
2. Provide state executive branch agencies greater access to child development research expertise.

Examples of State Policy Fellow Responsibilities

State fellows can be involved in bridging research and policy through a variety of responsibilities. Depending on the specific placement, responsibilities might involve, for example:

- helping to inform the design of a new state pre-kindergarten program or working to strengthen an existing program.
- assisting in the planning or implementation of policy initiatives to improve quality.
- assisting in the design, conduct, or analysis of a program evaluation.

One of the main positive experiences that I had involved going to meetings with [my state supervisor] and meeting politicians and advocates throughout the state...I would recommend [the state fellowship]—especially for students of color because I feel like I had opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise.

— Former SRCF State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellow

[Read about selected contributions from past SRCF State Policy Fellows](#)



SRCD State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellowship

The SRCD State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellowship places doctoral students in state executive branch offices that work on state pre-kindergarten programs. SRCD will be seeking candidates with a strong interest in early education.

Candidates must confirm with their academic advisor that participation in the program would be in keeping with the requirements of their doctoral program and would not impede progress towards the degree. Participation in the program requires a commitment to participate in a placement in a state executive branch agency for an average of 20 hours per week.

Who should apply?

The SRCD State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellowship is for candidates who:

- Have completed at least 2 years of coursework and are in good academic standing

- Have a background in early learning and education
- Can commit to a 12-month part-time placement in a state executive branch office that averages 20 hours per week over the course of a year. Fellowships are immersive experiences and fellows will be expected to be on site at the state agency for most if not all of their work.
- Are U.S. citizens
- Are members of SRCD

How to Apply



SRCD State Policy Post-doctoral Fellowship

The SRCD State Policy Post-doctoral Fellowship places early career developmental scientists in state executive branch offices that focus on early childhood. Candidates with expertise in family engagement, early math skills, or the development of dual language learners in early childhood will be prioritized, but placement activities may focus on early childhood policy more broadly.

Who should apply?

The SRCD State Policy Post-doctoral Fellowship is for candidates who:

- Will have completed their doctoral work in any discipline relevant to child development within the past two years
- Have expertise in early childhood development and especially in the areas of early mathematics, dual language learners, or family engagement
- Are U.S. citizens
- Are members of SRCD

How to Apply

Benefits of Being a State Policy Fellow

Be immersed in policy work in your home state.

- Fellows are supported by a placement supervisor and an academic mentor throughout the fellowship year.
- The SRCD policy team works to facilitate the fellows' experience and are available as a resource throughout the year.

Gain policy training as a doctoral student or early-career professional.

- One-day of state-specific training on the state's child and family policy landscape, organized by SRCD.
- Two-day training focused on child and family policy, hosted by SRCD in Washington, D.C. Fellows will be reimbursed for all travel expenses.
- Monthly video seminars for fellows with topics focusing on child development and public policy, as well as career development.
- One-day Capstone meeting at the end of the fellowship year in Washington, D.C. Fellows will be reimbursed for all travel expenses.

Receive a stipend and health insurance or tuition allocation.

- For Pre-doctoral fellows:
 - Fellows will receive a \$30,000 stipend.
 - An allocation of up to \$15,000 to defray the cost of tuition and health insurance.
- For Post-doctoral fellows:
 - Fellows will receive a stipend aligned with the federal GS level 12, Step 1 in their respective locality.
 - An allocation for purchase of health insurance is provided with the amount depending upon number of family members covered.
- All academic mentors receive an honorarium of \$5,000.

Receive a professional development fund.

- For Pre-doctoral fellows:
 - Funding for the fellow, academic mentor, and state placement supervisor to attend an early childhood focused conference together.
- For Post-doctoral fellows:
 - Fellows receive an allowance of up to \$2,800 to use towards professional development opportunities during their fellowship year.

Join an extensive network of fellowship alumni.

- The SRCD Federal Policy Fellowship began in 1978 with congressional placements. In 1991, the fellowship program added placements in federal executive branch agencies. The SRCD State Policy Fellowship began recently in 2017.
- To date, there is a network of approximately 200 fellowship alumni.

Learn about the differences between the post-doctoral and pre-doctoral state fellowships, examples of past placement activities, and the benefits of becoming a fellow in this informational webinar presented by Dr. Kelly Fisher, SRCD's Director for Policy, and Dr. Ruth Friedman, former SRCD Congressional fellow and co-lead for the SRCD U.S. State Policy Fellowship.



The learning and the growth was just incredible...I got an in-depth understanding of how decision-making is done at the state agency...I think you only get that when you have an immersion experience.

— Former SRCD State Policy Post-doctoral Fellow

Questions?

Contact us via email at policyfellowships@srcd.org or call 202-800-0666.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)