

SRCD Policy Fellowship Experience

Federal and state fellows are asked to write one-page reflections on their fellowship experiences. At the end of the fellowship year, fellows also develop a Professional Portfolio accompanied by a brief abstract to showcase a selected number of contributions the fellow made at the placement during the fellowship year.

[LISTING OF CURRENT SRCD POLICY FELLOWS: 2025-2026](#)

[LISTING OF PAST SRCD POLICY FELLOWS: 2024-2025](#)

Federal Policy Fellow Spotlights and State Policy Fellow Portfolio Abstracts

Federal and State fellows are asked to write one-page reflections on their fellowship experiences. In addition, at the end of the fellowship year fellows are asked to develop a Professional Portfolio with brief abstracts of each entry to showcase a selected number of contributions the fellow made at the placement during the fellowship year. *Prior to the 2020-2021 fellowship year, Federal fellows wrote one-page reflections while State fellows developed Professional Portfolios.*

[2023 - 2024](#)

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Jessie Bridgewater, Ph.D.](#)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health

- [Carly Champagne, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Child Care (OCC) in the Administration for Children and Families

- [Brett Greenfield, Ph.D.](#)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)

- [Paige Greenwood, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families

- [Diane Gumina, Ph.D.](#)

Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch (PPB) at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

- [Toria Herd, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

- [Shirley Huang, Ph.D.](#)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health

- [Jazlyn Nketia, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

- [Kylee Probert, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

- [Kizzann Ashana "Shana" Ratcliff, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families

- [Tanya Tavassolie, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families

- [Tamarie Willis, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

- [Kylie Garber, Ph.D.](#)
Congressional Branch fellow

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Lara Markovitz, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Support (OCS) in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- [Sara Nozadi, Ph.D.](#)
State of New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)
- [Isabella Sciuto Ozenbaugh, Ph.D.](#)
Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) in the state of Oregon
- [Faith VanMeter, Ph.D.](#)
Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Safety and Permanence Division,
Promotion and Prevention Unit

2022 - 2023

■

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Marissa Abbott, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation
- [Carly Champagne, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Care (OCC) in the Administration for Children and Families
- [Diane Gumina, Ph.D.](#)
Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch (PPB) at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- [Shirley Huang, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health

- [Kelsey McKee, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families
- [Kylee Probert, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families
- [Kizzann Ashana "Shana" Ratcliff, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start in the Administration for Children and Families
- [Virginia Salo, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health
- [Neda Senehi, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families
- [Tanya Tavassolie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families
- [Tamarie Willis, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families
- [Kylie Garber, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Tim Kaine

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Alex Busuito, Ph.D.](#)
Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health, Rhode Island Department of Health
 - [Lara Markovitz, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Support (OCS) in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - [Lillie Moffett, Ph.D.](#)
California Department of Education, Opportunities for All Branch
 - [Faith VanMeter, Ph.D.](#)
Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Safety and Permanence Division, Promotion and Prevention Unit
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Federal Policy Fellows

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Office of the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation
- [Lorena Aceves, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
- [Jackie Gross, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Frances Martínez Pedraza, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
- [Kelsey McKee, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start
- [Parisa Parsafar, Ph.D.](#)
Child Development and Behavior Branch, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
- [Virginia Salo, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
- [Neda Senehi, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Tanya Tavassolie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Maggie Hassan
- [Dianna Tran, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- [Clarissa Corkins, M.S.](#)
Oklahoma State Department of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- [Eleanor Fisk](#)
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Alex Busuito, Ph.D.](#)
Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health, Rhode Island Department of Health
- [Cassandra Simons Gerson, Ph.D.](#)
Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood
- [Lillie Moffett, Ph.D.](#)
California Department of Education, Opportunities for All Branch

2020 - 2021

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Lorena Aceves, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
- [Krystal Bichay-Awadalla, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Christian Clesi, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Bob Casey
- [Jackie Gross, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Ellen Litkowski, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Parisa Parsafar, Ph.D.](#)
Child Development and Behavior Branch, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of

Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

- [Frances Martínez Pedraza, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families

- [Alayna Schreier, Ph.D.](#)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- [Dianna Tran, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Jenn Finders, Ph.D.](#)

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- [Andrew \(Drew\) McGee](#)

Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood

- [Wendy Wei, Ed.M.](#)

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

2019 - 2020

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Krystal Bichay-Awadalla, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- [Ellen Litkowski, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- [Parisa Parsafar, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Senator Christopher Coons
- [Emily Ross, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Alayna Schreier, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Christina Padilla, Ph.D., M.P.P.](#)
District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Learning
- [Sarah Prendergast, Ph.D.](#)
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- [Kylie Bezdek](#)
North Carolina North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education
- [Claudia Kruzik](#)
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- [Ann Partee, Ed.M.](#)
Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Early Childhood
- [Callie Silver, M.A.](#)
Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD)

2018 - 2019

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Emily Ross, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Paula Daneri, Ph.D.](#)
House Committee on Education and Labor
- [Amanda K. Gatewood, M.P.H., Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Marisa Morin, Ph.D.](#)
Senate Finance Committee, Office of Ranking Member Ron Wyden
- [Rachel McKinnon, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
- [Francesca Longo, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
- [Anne Day Leong, Ph.D., M.S.W.](#)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
National Institutes of Health
- [Kelly Jedd McKenzie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and
Human Services
- [Sarah Blankenship, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Erin Cannon, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Rachel Katz, Ph.D.](#)
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Early Intervention
- [Alicia Miao, Ph.D.](#)
Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- [Nneka Ibekwe, M.S.W., Ed.M.](#)
Office of Early Learning, Delaware Department of Education

- [Caroline Martin](#)
Vermont Agency of Education
- [Meghan McDoniel, Ed.M.](#)
Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning
- [Elizabeth Tremaine, M.S.](#)
Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

2017 - 2018

■

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Rachel D. McKinnon, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Bob Casey
- [Alaina Flannigan, Ph.D.](#)
Joint Economic Committee, Office of Ranking Member Senator Martin Heinrich
- [Erin Cannon, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Anne Day Leong, Ph.D., M.S.W.](#)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
National Institutes of Health
- [Sarah Blankenship, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Kelly Jedd McKenzie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and
Human Services
- [Francesca Longo, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- [Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

- [Jenessa Malin, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Jameela Conway-Turner, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- [Aimée Drouin Duncan, Ph.D.](#)
Office of The State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning (DEL),
District of Columbia
- [Kate Giapponi Schneider, Ph.D.](#)
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- [Robert Carr, M.A.](#)
North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)
- [Julie Casper, M.S.Ed.](#)
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)
- [Melanie Fish](#)
Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL)/Department of Children, Youth, and
Families (DCYF)
- [Mayra Parada](#)
Office of Early Childhood and Humanities, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

2016 - 2017

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

- [Jenessa Malin, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Angelique Day, Ph.D., M.S.W.](#)
Office of Congressman Danny Davis
- [Emily M. Douglas, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Ron Wyden
- [Elizabeth Day, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- [Jameela Conway-Turner, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- [Marina M. Mendoza, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- [Elizabeth Shuey, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

2015 - 2016

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Amy Leffler, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- [Tracy Clopêt, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
- [Marina Mendoza, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- [Elizabeth Shuey, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

- [Kirby Chow, Ph.D.](#)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services

2014 - 2015

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Federal Policy Fellows

- [Lynlee Tanner Stapleton, Ph.D.](#)

U.S. Agency for International Development

- [Cristina Novoa, Ph.D., M.P.P.](#)

Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

- [Kirby Chow, Ph.D.](#)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services

- [Amy Griffin, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Senator Al Franken

- [Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

- [Beth Meloy, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

- [Michelle Boyd, Ph.D.](#)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services

- [Nina Philipsen Hetzner, Ph.D.](#)

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

2013 - 2014

■

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Lynlee Tanner Stapleton, Ph.D.](#)
U.S. Global Development Lab, U.S. Agency for International Development
- [Kathleen McCoy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Julie A. Leis, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Christine Fortunato, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- [Nina Philipsen Hetzner, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Beth Meloy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

2012 - 2013

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Federal Policy Fellows

- [Amanda Clincy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Kathleen McCoy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Michelle J. Boyd, Ph.D.](#)
House Ways and Means Committee
- [Lindsey Hutchison, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and

Human Services

- [Beth Meloy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Al Franken
- [Christine Fortunato, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Amanda Clincy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Akilah Swinton, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Kelly R. Fisher, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

2011 - 2012

■

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Charlayne Hayling-Williams, Ph.D.](#)
Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration
 - [Akilah Swinton, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
 - [Pamala Trivedi, Ph.D., NCSP](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
 - [Rebecca Taylor, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Representative Betty McCollum
 - [Kelly Fisher, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
 - [Tisha Wiley, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
-

2010 - 2011

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Joseph L. Mahoney, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- [Elizabeth O'Hare, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Representative Rush Holt
- [Charlayne Hayling, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- [Michelle Sternthal, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Policy, Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Tisha Wiley, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- [Melinda Leidy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Sarah Oberlander, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- [Sarah D. Lynne-Landsman, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health

2009 - 2010

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Melinda Leidy, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Christopher Dodd
- [Binta Beard, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Representative Edward Markey
- [Elisa Klein, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- [Molly Irwin, Ph.D., M.P.H.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Sarah Oberlander, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- [Sacha Klein, M.S.W., Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) and the Children's Bureau's Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, Administration for Children and Families
- [Nancy Geyelin Margie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Ann Rivera, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

2008 - 2009

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Diana Tyson, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- [Ann C. Rivera, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Nancy Geyelin Margie, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- [Samantha Harvell, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- [Taryn Morrissey, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator M. Kennedy
- [Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Diana Tyson, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- [Jennifer Brown Urban, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- [Layla Esposito, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kenney Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

2007 - 2008

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Sara Vecchiotti, Ph.D.](#)
Perspective from a former Fellow with a placement in Congress
- [Ann Marie White, Ed.D.](#)
Perspective from a former Fellow with placements in Congress and in the Executive Branch
- [Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- [Layla Esposito, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kenney Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
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- [Michele M. Mazzocco, Ph.D.](#)
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- [Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.](#)
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- [Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for
Children and Families

2006 - 2007

Federal Policy Fellows

- [Dara Blachman, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- [Nicole Gardner Neblett, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and
Human Services
- [Behnosh Najaf, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Jill Antonishak, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Tom Harkin
- [Taniesha A. Woods, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Senator Christopher Dodd
- [Nicole Gardner Neblett, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and
Human Services

- [Dara Blachman, Ph.D.](#)
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
 - [Carmela Lomonaco, Ph.D.](#)
Eunice Kenney Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
National Institutes of Health
 - [Erika Feinauer, Ph.D., Ed.D.](#)
Development and Learning Sciences, National Science Foundation
 - [Lauren R. Baskir, Ph.D.](#)
National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health
 - [Behnosh Najafi, Ph.D.](#)
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
-