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: 2022-2023

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

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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**2022**

**Federal Policy Fellows**

- **Marissa Abbott, Ph.D.**
  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.**
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

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

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 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)
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.
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

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)

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

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

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**2015**

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
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

2013

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

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.
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
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

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 Morisseyy, 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

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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
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