

# 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: 2021-2022](#)

## 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.*

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.  
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

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 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)

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

---

### 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 Clop t, 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

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.](#)  
Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health

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

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

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

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,  
National Institutes of Health
- [Michele M. Mazzocco, Ph.D.](#)  
Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- [Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.](#)  
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- [Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.](#)  
Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

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
-