State Agency Placements

If you want to implement policy and programs, the state fellowship is for you. State fellows often assist in the design, implementation or analysis for program evaluation.

List of state agencies that want to host a fellow this coming year

State fellows experience the day-to-day life of agencies that are tasked with delivering services and programs to support children and families. If you work on child welfare issues, early care and education, or parental leave policies; this is the place for you.

Over our eight year history, SRCD has supported fellows in 21 states across the country. Many state alumni have gone on to do impressive work in academe, research firms, and state agencies.

APPLY Congressional PLACEMENTS FEDERAL PLACEMENTS

"I received the mentorship from my supervisors at the state, my academic mentor, and SRCD. For me, state policy the min draw. I always was most interested in state policy, because the state policy land pe is so rich and excit. There's a lot happening. A state like Michigan, for example, is very diverse, polically, socially, and economically. And it's been really exciting to get to work in this very active team."

gency Fellow (2022-2024)

About the State Agency Placements

Fellows have worked on a wide range of projects on children's well-being and learning. Recent fellows have participated in task forces and facilitated inter-agency listening sessions. They have helped redesign how the state works with Medicaid to ensure home visiting can be billed. And, they have helped design formal pre-K evaluation systems to assess program quality. Fellows work on topics that are determined jointly based on the agency's needs and the fellow's skill set.

State agencies differ in their working arrangements. Depending on the agency, you might work full-time in the office or in a hybrid pattern. Some state agencies are still fully remote.

We support placements in any state. As an applicant, you will identify a state agency placement that is happy to participate before you apply. SRCD can help prospective fellow find a placement. On this page we provide information about state agencies that have expressed interest in hosting a fellow. We've also provided information about all of the early childhood agencies in states in the U.S.

State agencies interested in becoming a placement location can learn more here.



How to Find a State Agency

As an applicant, you will identify a state agency that wants to host you before you apply. This is
different to the Congressional placement, where you match with the placement after your initial
application. Read on to find a list of state agencies that have expressed interest in hosting a fellow.
We've also provided information about all of the early childhood agencies in states in the U.S. SRCD
can help you find a placement so please reach out if you get stuck.

State agencies interested in becoming a placement location can learn more here.

"Do notice that of experience in policy stop you from applying. The fellowship is designed to help you build those skills Also that are interested in the State Policy Fellowship but do not have a connection with someone who were the state experiment, don't be afraid to reach out to someone new through an email! It never hurts

ugh, SRCD State Policy Fellow, Oregon, 2023-2025.

Finding Another Placement

We also accept placements in all 50 states (and DC!). Applicants must pre-match with an agency before they apply. To help you do that, here is a list of state agencies that are interested in hosting a fellow this coming year. Reach out to them if you would like to discuss the possibility of a placement. Don't forget to share this pamphlet for state agencies, which provides information about the fellowship.

Please note historically applicants have not been able to arrange a placement in the state of Georgia due to state labor laws.

			Last		Phone
State Agency	Title	First Name	Name	Email Address	Number

California Department of Education, Early Education Division	Director of Early Education	Stephen	Propheter	Director-EarlyEducation@cde.ca.gov		Univer susper quality margin
Colorado Department of Early Childhood	Deputy Director, Office of Program Delivery	Kendra	Dunn	Kendra.Dunn@state.co.us		Child childh (IDEA child o prescl
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood	. 0	Samantha	Reinstein	Samantha.Reinstein@ct.gov		Childo famili
DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Director, Quality Initiatives	Kathryn	Kigera	Kathryn.Kigera@dc.gov	202-412- 0013	Child suppo
Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood	Assistant State Superintendent	Sarah	Neville- Morgan	Sarah.NevilleMorgan@maryland.gov	(410) 767- 0342	Child
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care	Director of Research	Ashley	White	Ashley.A.White@mass.gov		We hat focuse crede funding

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Minnesota	Assistant					as nee
Department of	Commissioner,					child s
Children, Youth,	Family Well-	Shaneen	Moore	Shaneen.Moore@state.mn.us		(econ
and Families	Being					childh
and ranning	Administration					assist
						servic
						1.lmp
						legisla
						home
Michigan						for ex
Department of Lifelong Education Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP)	Deputy Department Director	Emily	Laidlaw	Laidlawe1@michigan.gov	517-899- 1848	2.Chil schola depar redete
						3. Exp
						learne
New York State						
Office of Children and Family	Deputy Commissioner	Nora	Yates	Nora.Yates@ocfs.ny.gov	518-486- 6247	Early c

Services

The fe

Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care	Chief Research and Data Officer	Elise	Cordle Kennedy	Elise.CordleKennedy@delc.oregon.gov	[,] 503-314- 6458	state- from l oppor DELC' and ir
RI Department of Health	Childhood Health	Blythe	Berger	Blythe.Berger@health.ri.gov	401-222- 5949	Early visitin
Virginia Department of Education	Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood Access, Enrollment, and Policy	Rebecca	Ullrich	Rebecca.Ullrich@doe.virginia.gov	804-292- 4149	Birth- family relate

When you reach out to a prospective placement, we suggest you include this flier in your email, to help the agency learn more about what you are offering. You can always reach out to policy@srcd.org if you or your potential placement has a question.

You can also talk to a former state fellow. Previous fellows found it helpful to speak with fellow alum about the application process. If you would like to reach out to a former fellow, you can view list of previous fellows or email policy@srcd.org to set up a connection with a former fellow.

Want More Options to Find a State?

We will accept other states too, so don't limit yourself if your state isn't on our list. Use this list of all early childhood state agencies to start a conversation in your state:

All U.S. State Early Childhood Agencies

Tips and Tricks Webinar (November 2025)

The state placement is generously supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation, whose investment strategy focuses on early childhood development (ages birth through eight), so the work of state fellows must align with that area of work. You will need to ensure that the work the state agency has in mind will meet this focus. For example, systems that touch young children such as health systems, child welfare, childcare, and programs that touch low-income families.

Want more tips and resources? Try these:

- 1. 1. When you reach out to a prospective placement, include this flier in your email, to help the agency learn more about what you are offering.
- 2. Ensure that your work focuses on early childhood development (ages birth through eight). For example, systems that touch young children such as health systems, child welfare, childcare, and programs that touch low-income families. State placements are generously supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation and the Couch Family Foundation, whose strategy focuses on this age group.
- 3. Talk to a former state fellow! View a list of previous fellows or email policy@srcd.org to set up a connection.
- 4. Always reach out to policy@srcd.org if you or your potential placement has a question.

Specific Eligibility Requirements

View the How to Apply page for specific eligibility requirements, including citizenship and a focus on early childhood (ages birth through eight).



Why should you apply?

State fellows experience the full gamut of the policy world. They see how the federal government tries to influence a state's policy decisions, and they are often directly responsible for implementing programs on the ground. It is a perspective that you won't find anywhere else. If you are willing to learn and grow, you will be rewarded with ample opportunities to take leadership opportunities in new areas in most state placements.

States have a great deal of discretion in how to implement most federal social programs, and they often have state-specific programs as well. State placements give fellows a view of policy that is closer to the "ground level" where policy reaches children and families.

Here are a few other things to consider:

• State fellows are often on the implementation side of policy, assisting in the design, implementation, or analysis for program evaluation.

- Because many state agencies have limited resources for staff, fellows are often given significant opportunities for leadership after an initial adjustment period.
- Prior state fellows have participated in taskforces, supported family and community input into policymaking, designed key initiatives and strategies for departments, designed evaluation approaches, and analyzed state data to inform improve program performance.

Learn more about the work current state agency fellows did in their Spotlight posts.

Navigate:

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