Society for Research in Child Development

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Corporate Sponsorship Policy[1]

Background

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing advocacy, education, and communications, as well as promoting research and inclusive practices in the developmental sciences to enhance its members' ability to improve human lives. SRCD plays a significant role in providing professional development, networking, and mentorship opportunities for its members. SRCD members engage in research and practice in the developmental sciences. As such, SRCD offers educational opportunities that help foster the exchange of new and current information about the developmental sciences, as well as develops resources that guide members in developmental research.

Corporations also strive to deliver cutting-edge information about their products, programs, and research and development. However, it is readily acknowledged that corporations may have a vested interest in promoting resources that ensure a return on investment to maximize value for owners/shareholders.

SRCD is committed to minimizing actual and perceived conflicts of interest and bias by ensuring its interactions with corporations meet high ethical standards. These interactions may include, but are not limited to, receiving charitable contributions, receiving funds in support of specific activities such as sponsorship of scientific meetings, and conducting a range of business transactions.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide principles for interaction with corporations to ensure that these entities do not wield undue influence on SRCD’s programs, practices, policies, publications, or its membership.

Approval Process

- SRCD staff will review existing and future corporate sponsorships and determine whether they meet the standards outlined by type of engagement.
- SRCD will prioritize sponsorships from corporations that have the following:
    - Statement(s) that articulate(s) leadership commitment to inclusive practices.
    - Description of diversity, equity, and inclusive practices, such as policies, actions, and procedures.
- SRCD staff will utilize existing resources such as U.S. and international organizational “scorecards” and other rigorous vetting standards to assess potential sponsors:
        - MSCI, ClimateScore, CDP, and Moody’s can be used to identify potential sustainability and climate risks associated with the sponsor.
    - Social Accountability International’s SA8000 Certified Organization list which certifies organizations based on internationally recognized standards of decent work, including

[1] Approved by the SRCD Governing Council on November 12, 2025.

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ILO conventions, and national laws. The standards include child labor, forced or compulsory labor, and other standards. This list can be used to identify human rights and child labor risks associated with the sponsor.
    - The Human Rights Campaign's [Corporate Equality Index](), a U.S. national benchmarking tool on corporate policies and practices relevant to LGBTQ employees, can be used to assess a sponsor's support for LGBTQ employees.
- SRCD staff will consider the following as part of the vetting process:
    - Identify missions and values in alignment with SRCD
    - Research past and current partnerships of the prospective sponsor
    - Evaluate the prospective sponsor's financial health/standing
    - Assess the prospective sponsor's compliance with applicable laws and regulations (especially in areas relevant to SRCD) (See above)
    - Consider any past negative press surrounding the prospective sponsor, verify whether criticisms have been resolved
    - Consider overlap between SRCD's target members and prospective sponsor's target market
    - Identify ways in which SRCD might benefit from the prospective sponsor's brand promotion efforts
        - Audience reach
        - Event visibility
        - Media exposure
        - Community engagement
        - Prospective sponsor's alignment with a worthy mission
    - Include data insights supporting the benefits that a sponsor could expect
- Sponsorships from one for-profit corporation of more than $75,000 will need approval by SRCD's Governing Council.

Types of Corporate Engagement

1. Charitable Contributions
    a. Charitable Contributions may only be utilized in a manner that is aligned with SRCD's mission and strategic plan.
    b. SRCD shall adhere to applicable tax rules and legal standards for acceptance and acknowledgement of Charitable Contributions and management of institutional funds.

2. Corporate Sponsorships

    a. SRCD shall not accept sponsorships from tobacco, alcohol, or firearms industries.

    b. SRCD shall make reasonable efforts to seek multiple Corporate Sponsors.

    c. SRCD shall prioritize adherence to applicable tax rules and legal standards for qualified sponsorship payments to charitable organizations to minimize unrelated business taxable income.

    d. The Corporate Sponsors shall be identified by name and logo (where permitted).

3. SRCD Meetings and Other Educational Events
    a. SRCD shall make reasonable efforts to achieve a balanced portfolio of general support for any Educational Activity

b. SRCD shall seek to prevent commercial bias or influence or the appearance thereof on the content of any of its educational activities.
c. Meetings organized by a for-profit corporation[2] occurring concurrently with an SRCD event (in-person or virtual) shall be independent of SRCD's events. If such activities are open to all meeting attendees, acknowledgment in SRCD program materials and signage shall be at the discretion of the SRCD meetings staff and identified as an "industry sponsored" event. Meeting space for such activities shall not conflict with educational sessions or other major events (as determined by the SRCD Executive Director and/or Director of Member Engagement and Events) of the SRCD educational event. Meeting space shall not be released to and paid for by for-profit corporations in or related to the tobacco, alcohol, or firearms industries.

4. Exhibits
    a. SRCD may offer exhibit space to a Corporate Sponsor as part of the sponsorship package.
    b. For-profit corporations may also purchase exhibit space as outlined in the Exhibitor Prospectus for the event.
5. Grants
    a. SRCD shall not permit for-profit corporations[3] to select (or influence the selection of) recipients of SRCD Grants.
    b. SRCD shall select recipients of Grants based on peer review of grant applications.
    c. SRCD shall not require recipients of Grants to meet with for-profit corporation representatives.
    d. SRCD shall not permit for-profit corporations that support Grants to receive intellectual property rights or royalties arising out of the grant-funded work.
    e. SRCD shall not permit for-profit corporations that support SRCD Grants to control or influence manuscripts that arise from the grant.
6. Journals
    a. Manuscripts pertaining to R&D conducted by for-profit corporations should disclose any possible conflicts before publication.

7. Other Opportunities
    a. SRCD may engage with corporate partners to develop new sponsorship or grant opportunities
    b. All opportunities will be evaluated against our standards for inclusion and ethical practices.

[2] Any corporation that is not described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
[3] Any corporation that is not described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.