



Spotlight on the SRCD Fellow

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As a second-year fellow in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), I am fortunate to have incredible opportunities to build on the work I engaged in during my first year of the fellowship. A highlight so far this year is my role as the OPRE team lead for one of our new projects, Creating a Culture of Continuous Quality Improvement in Child Care and Head Start Settings. In this capacity I coordinate and oversee all aspects of the project work carried out under this contract, from reviewing work plans and timelines for data collection to shaping the scope and content of products developed as part of the project. I work closely with the project contractors outside ACF and also with the internal OPRE team, who provide me with strong support and mentorship. In addition, I continue to work on a broader portfolio of projects on early care and education.

Beyond the rewarding project work I have as a fellow, I wanted to continue in the fellowship this year to witness firsthand the transition of Presidential power. Although the outcome of the election was far from certain when I made the decision to stay, my colleagues and the leadership of OPRE were clear before the election and continue to reiterate: the importance of objective research to inform policy is not diminished by changes in political leadership. This point is reinforced by the bipartisan Congressional work of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. Nonetheless, I am incredibly grateful for my dedicated and talented colleagues in this time of transition, and am proud to play a small part in continuing the important work of OPRE.