

SRCD Post-doctoral State Policy Fellowship: Call for Letters of Intent

**Call for Letters of Intent:
Post-doctoral State Policy Fellowship in Early Childhood Sponsored by the Society
for Research in Child Development
in Collaboration with the University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium**

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) is seeking letters of intent for its Post-doctoral State Policy Fellowship in Early Childhood for 2018-2019. Letters of intent should be submitted jointly by a prospective candidate for a post-doctoral fellowship focusing on state early childhood policy and from either a professor or a senior researcher (from a university center or research organization) with experience and/or background in policy research who is interested in serving as an academic mentor for a post-doctoral fellow.

Post-doctoral fellows will be placed in a state executive branch early childhood agency for a firsthand experience in state policymaking, program implementation, and program evaluation. For this program, developmental scientists are sought with backgrounds in the development of early mathematics skills, of young dual language learners, or in the area of family engagement in the early years. However, the state agency placement may focus on any topic related to early childhood policy. The specific early childhood focus and project within the agency do not need to be developed ahead of time. This is a post-doctoral fellowship program that will take place in the 2018-2019 academic year (from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019) for candidates who have completed their doctorates within the past two years and who are SRCD members.

This post-doctoral fellowship is for candidates:

- Who will have completed their doctoral work in any discipline relevant to child development within the past two years;
- With expertise in early childhood development and especially in the areas of early mathematics, dual language learners, or family engagement;
- Who seek a 12-month post-doctoral fellowship that is a full time immersion in a state executive branch agency that focuses on early childhood;
- Who would be available to start the fellowship full-time in the fall of 2018;
- Who is a U.S. citizen, and
- Who is a member of SRCD.

SRCD is offering this fellowship so that child development scientists will build skills in policy research and program implementation, state executive branch offices will benefit from the expertise of a child development researcher, and academic mentors will benefit from a greater understanding of the research and program issues salient to the state executive branch office with the possibility of developing closer ties with the office. Academic mentors are not asked to design a project with the fellow in advance, but to support the fellow as the immersion experience proceeds and the potential for bringing research and developmental expertise to the placement is clarified.

Fellows will be provided with a stipend aligned with federal GS levels (GS Grade 12, Step 1), an allocation to purchase health insurance, and funding for professional development experiences. Funding will go directly to the fellow. Academic mentors will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 for the year of the placement. SRCD's Policy and Communications staff in Washington D.C. will facilitate the fellowship experience and will be available as a resource for professional and placement support

throughout the year. Fellows will begin their post-doctoral year with training on child and family policy in Washington D.C.

Staff in state early childhood executive branch agencies with interest in providing a placement are encouraged to reach out to research colleagues to share information about this post-doctoral fellowship opportunity and encourage them to consider submitting letters of intent as noted below.

Application Procedures and Requirements

Letters of Intent: Due by December 22, 2017

A brief letter of intent is requested as a first step. Letters of intent should be submitted jointly by a post-doctoral candidate and a professor or senior researcher (at a university center or research organization) interested in serving as the academic mentor for a Post-doctoral State Policy Fellow. Sections from the post-doctoral candidate and academic mentor (as detailed further below) should not exceed three single spaced pages combined.

The letters of intent must include:

From the post-doctoral candidate:

- A description of the candidate's background in child development research, including expertise in early childhood. If possible, the candidate should describe background in early math skills, the development of dual language learners, or family engagement.
- A description of interests and goals related to bridging research and policy.

From the academic mentor:

- A description of research interests and how these align with the goals of the fellowship;
- A description of the professional support the academic mentor could provide to the fellow throughout the year;
- A description of an ongoing working relationship with a state executive branch office, plans for development of such a working relationship, or previous policy research that would provide background for serving as an academic mentor to a Post-doctoral State Policy Fellow;
- Confirmation that, should a full application be invited, it will be possible to obtain a letter of commitment from a state executive branch office focusing on early childhood, indicating that a placement at the agency will be feasible, and
- A description of the types of work potentially available for the fellow in the state executive branch agency focusing on early childhood, with the understanding that the specific projects and responsibilities will be determined by the agency at a later time.

Letters of intent should be sent via email to policyfellowships@srcd.org with the subject line "2018-2019 Post-doctoral State Policy Fellowship Letter of Intent."

A Selection Committee will review the letters of intent and invite strong applicants to submit full applications. A link to the application website will be provided to those invited to submit full applications.

Full applications if invited by SRCD: Due by February 16, 2018

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Full applications will require:

Application materials from the post-doctoral candidate for the fellowship

The post-doctoral candidate will be asked to enter background information on the application website and will then be asked to upload the following materials:

- Current CV, and
- Statement of interest of no more than 1000 words that addresses professional background and qualifications for the fellowship; expertise in early childhood noting background where possible in early math, the development of dual language learners, or family engagement; basis for interest in the fellowship (including policy areas of interest and skills to be acquired); and career goals (including how the fellowship would support those goals).

Three letters of reference for the post-doctoral candidate

The post-doctoral candidate will be asked to enter email addresses for three individuals providing letters of reference. A message will be sent automatically by the application website to each individual, including a link for uploading the letter of reference.

Application materials from the academic mentor

The post-doctoral candidate will be asked to provide the email address for the academic mentor. An email will then be sent automatically to the academic mentor, providing a link for uploading as a single pdf document:

- Current CV, and
- Statement of interest of no more than 750 words that addresses areas of research; the ways in which the academic mentor would support the post-doctoral fellow; how having a fellow with a state policy placement would add to and extend ongoing work.

Letters from staff at state executive branch agency

The post-doctoral candidate will be asked to provide the email address (or email addresses) for staff members from the state executive branch agency focusing on early childhood issues. A message will then be sent automatically to the staff member(s), providing a link for uploading:

- Statement of interest of no more than 500 words from an employee at the state executive branch agency in a leadership position in early childhood policy who would supervise the fellow, providing a description of professional background, a description of possible projects the fellow might assist with, and confirmation of interest and time for providing supervision to the fellow, and
- Letter of commitment from a representative of the state agency with appropriate authority confirming that the agency welcomes the possibility to host a post-doctoral fellow; that such a placement would be in keeping with agency rules and regulations and state laws; naming the specific supervisor; and confirming that an appropriate workspace would be made available including use of a computer and telephone (used only according to agency guidelines). The statement of interest noted above and the letters of commitment may be from the same individual, if appropriate.