

SLIDE 1: Welcome to the webinar on “Why You Should Apply to the Society for Research and Child Development U.S. Federal Policy Fellowship Program.” We're excited to provide you with an overview of this immersion experience. Let's get started.

SLIDE 2: The three overarching goals of the federal fellowship program are to provide fellows with firsthand experience in federal policymaking program implementation and evaluation. To provide federal executive branch agencies and Congress greater access to research expertise on a diverse range of child development topics to enhance evidence-based policy development, implementation, and evaluation. And lastly, to build a network of experts that bridge developmental science, federal policymaking, and practice.

SLIDE 3: There are many benefits of the fellowship experience. Through your fellowship experience, you will better understand the linkages between research and policy through an immersion experience, you will engage in the policymaking process, you will learn how developmental science can be used to improve policy development, implementation, and evaluation. You will learn how to communicate more effectively with policymakers and other stakeholders. You will further expand your career opportunities and network. You will learn how to formulate more informed and useful questions for policy related research. You will use research to inform federally funded programs and policies that serve diverse populations, and you will strengthen your skill sets through professional development opportunities.

SLIDE 4: Now let's explore the fellowship opportunities in more detail. There are two types of federal fellowships, the congressional fellowship and the executive branch fellowship. Next, we'll provide some examples of congressional fellowship experiences.

SLIDE 5: For the congressional fellowship, you will either find a placement in a Senate or House of Representatives member office, or you will have a placement with a congressional committee. For example, past fellows have been placed with the House Education and Labor Committee and with the Senate Finance Committee. Congressional Fellows have contributed to their offices in a wide variety of important ways. I'd like to give you just a handful of examples of the types of work fellows can do when they're on Capitol Hill. Fellows are usually involved with drafting and negotiating legislation, staffing congressional meetings, using research to inform the reauthorization of programs or appropriations. Advising members of Congress on how research and data may inform policies, federal programs, and services affecting children, youth, and families, and supporting congressional hearings, briefings, and speeches.

SLIDE 6: For Executive Branch fellowships, fellows may be placed in research and evaluation offices, such as the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), or the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). There are many different types of activities that fellows have worked on during such placements. They have contributed to study design for congressionally mandated and federally funded studies. They've developed new research agendas to inform programs

and policies that serve diverse populations. For example, in a placement like OPRE, you may work with your Head Start partners and OPRE team to identify research needs to address specific questions where there are gaps in the literature, including programs that serve specific populations, such as migrant and Indigenous children. Fellows have also contributed to grant review for extramural grant applications and fostered cross agency collaborations across different agencies, departments, or offices on topics of mutual interest. Work groups are formed for different functions, such as informing new research agendas, convening an expert meeting on a particular topic, or overseeing the production of a report. For example, one fellow worked on the HomVee Workgroup, which guided the production of the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness review, with representatives from OPRE, ASPE, the Children's Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Lastly, fellows have also written requests for proposals for federal grant programs or contracts from conceptualization of the research program to the review, award, and oversight of the funded projects.

SLIDE 7: Executive Branch fellows may also be placed in Program Offices, such as the Office of Head Start (OHS), or the Office of Childcare (OCC). In these placements, fellows may review state, territory, and tribal plans for childcare and early education program implementation. Some of these programs may be funded through block grants and prior fellows have supported the review process of the grant applications. Fellows may manage federally funded grant programs to organizations who provide education or childcare services. They may also conduct reviews of the national early education and care landscape or support and guide program monitoring activities and technical assistance providers, for example, by developing disseminating and implementing the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Lastly, fellows may develop and amend program rules and regulations.

SLIDE 8: There have been placements at other offices as well, including the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). At NICHD, fellows have participated in strategic planning for the placement agency, worked on funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and notices of special interests (NOSIs), planned and implemented scientific workshops with various stakeholders, and assisted in defining research agendas. Please note that the specific placements available vary by year based on funding.

SLIDE 9: In addition to the rich learning experiences found in the fellowship placement itself, SRCD provides other professional development supports throughout the year, including: a multi-day Child and Family Policy training in the fall, and a multi-day Capstone meeting to reflect on the fellowship year in the summer, monthly seminars focused on child development and public policy as well as career development, individualized professional development planning with support from SRCD staff and placement supervisors, development of a professional portfolio to showcase the fellows' accomplishments, and \$2,800 allowance for professional development activities. Fellows have used funds to attend conferences, gain additional statistics and research methods training, join professional associations, and more. SRCD federal fellows are also fellows of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science (AAAS). SRCD also partners with the AAAS to provide additional professional development trainings, including a two-week science policy orientation at the start of the fellowship year, and other career development programming and social events throughout the fellowship year. Fellows have attended skill building workshops in science communication, networking, managing practices, and more.

SLIDE 10: Beyond the fellowship experience, fellows also benefit from joining an extensive network of over 200 SRCD fellowship alumni, as well as being part of the larger AAAS fellowship network.

SLIDE 11: You may be wondering what fellows do after the fellowship and how it influences their career. Many former fellows say the fellowship experience was integral in launching their next chapter. They developed a wide array of knowledge, skills, and experiences that expanded their expertise and portfolio of work beyond graduate school training and launched them into new, exciting careers. A large percentage of former Congressional and Executive Branch Fellows work outside of academia: in government, consulting, direct service organizations, research firms, nonprofits, and philanthropic foundations. Some specific examples of places fellowship alumni have worked include Child Trends, the New York City Administration for Children's Services, SRI International, and the Foundation for Child Development. Other fellows stay in the federal government after their fellowship concludes.

SLIDE 12: Are you interested in applying? There are some specific eligibility requirements you will need to keep in mind. Applicants must have a doctorate in an area relevant to child development. For example, this doctorate degree could be a PhD, an Ed.D., or an MD. Please note we welcome applications from early-, mid- and advanced- career scholars. Applicants must also be a member of SRCD and a US citizen due to citizenship restrictions for placement in Congress and the Federal agencies. They also must demonstrate exceptional competence in an area of child development research. Please note fellows come from a wide variety of backgrounds in scientific disciplines. Lastly, they must be able to commit to a 12-month full time fellowship placement in Washington DC. Be sure to visit SRCD's website for application information and the deadline for submission.

SLIDE 13: Thank you for watching this webinar and we hope to see your application this year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email at policyfellowships@srcd.org.