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

– Lara Markovitz, State Agency 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**

1. 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 not let a lack of experience in policy stop you from applying. The fellowship is designed to help you build those skills. Also, if you are interested in the State Policy Fellowship but do not have a connection with someone who works in a State government, don't be afraid to reach out to someone new through an email! It never hurts to ask!"*

– Isabella Sciuto Ozenbaugh, 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.

| State Agency | Title | First Name | Last Name | Email Address | Phone Number |
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| California Department of Education, Early Education Division | Director of Early Education | Stephen | Propheter | Director-EarlyEducation@cde.ca.gov | | Univer susper quality margi |
| Colorado Department of Early Childhood | Deputy Director, Office of Program Delivery | Kendra | Dunn | Kendra.Dunn@state.co.us | | Child childh (IDEA child presc |
| Connecticut Office of Early Childhood | Chief Operating Officer | Samantha | Reinstein | Samantha.Reinstein@ct.gov | | Childc 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 ha focus crede fundi could |
| Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families | Assistant Commissioner, Family Well-Being Administration | Shaneen | Moore | Shaneen.Moore@state.mn.us | | The fe as nee child (econ childh assist servic |

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| Michigan Department of Lifelong Education Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP) | Deputy Department Director | Emily | Laidlaw | Laidlawe1@michigan.gov | 517-899-1848 | 1.Imp<br>legisla<br>home<br>for ex<br><br>2.Chil<br>schola<br>depar<br>redete<br><br>3. Exp<br>learne |
| New York State Office of Children and Family Services | Deputy Commissioner | Nora | Yates | Nora.Yates@ocfs.ny.gov | 518-486-6247 | Early<br>coord |
| Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care | Chief Research and Data Officer | Elise | Cordle Kennedy | Elise.CordleKennedy@delc.oregon.gov | 503-314-6458 | The D<br>overs<br>well a<br>and p<br>based<br>Analy<br>work<br>state-<br>from<br>oppor<br>DELC'<br>and in<br>collab |
| RI Department of Health | Chief of Perinatal and Early Childhood Health | Blythe | Berger | Blythe.Berger@health.ri.gov | 401-222-5949 | Early<br>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.

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