Child Policy Connect

Answer Congress' research questions in real time.

NEWS: SRCD Launches Initiative to Increase the Use of Developmental Science in Immigration Policy

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Join the Child Policy Connect community



Connecting SRCD members and Congressional offices

Child Policy Connect brings together SRCD members and Congressional offices to answer pressing policy questions that impact children and families.

To do this, SRCD's policy department builds relationships with offices, assesses their needs, then matches offices with our members' areas of expertise and facilitates "Hill days", where scholars attend meetings on Capitol Hill and begin building long-term relationships with legislators.



"It was a great experience. I think we were successful in moving the minds of legislators toward support of research on child development. This was just a first step. I intend to carry this process through until our legislators have a deeper understanding of why their support is vital for research, and that research is vital for child well-being."

Dr. Christi Bergin, Research Professor Emerita and SRCD Member, attended the July 2025 Connect Capitol Hill Day



"It was eye opening to see how the system works. You see policy but you don't see the system behind it - the level of staffers behind it...how this policy comes into effect and how it impacts the work I do. To meet with them and have that connection to policymakers?was inspiring."

Dr. Theda Rose, Associate Professor and SRCD member, attended the July 2025 Connect Capitol Hill Day

Our vision is to become the go-to place for Congressional offices with questions about child development. We want to improve evidence-based policymaking, and help our members put their work into action.



How it Works:

1. *We connect* - We do the initial heavy lifting for you by identifying and reaching out to Congressional offices that are engaging on a topical theme – for example, children and adolescent mental health. We get office buy-in, assess their needs, then we put out a rapid response call to our members based on the office's questions.

2. *You respond* - Members subscribe to the Child Policy Connect community page to respond to rapid response calls. We also seek out members based on your membership profile – **it helps us find you if you keep an updated profile with your expertise listed, so please consider logging in to do that!** We then match you with specific offices and coordinate with you to come to Washington, D.C. for a 3-day event, where you are trained and supported to meet with Congressional staff.

Many scholars are funded to attend the Hill days through their institution. For those who can't get institutional funding, our generous funders at W.T. Grant Foundation have enabled us to issue small travel awards.

3. *You collaborate* – After the Hill day, you can continue collaboration with your offices with activities like:

- Creating fact sheets
- Writing policy briefs
- Organizing congressional briefings
- Reviewing bill language
- Preparing roundtables
- Attending Congressional hearings with researcher testimony

Visit the SRCD Toolkit to Prepare for your Hill day

Who is eligible to participate?

SRCD members! This service is part of your suite of SRCD member benefits and contributes to our mission to advance evidence-based policymaking. Your membership dues help support SRCD's policy work, including Child Policy Connect.

Join the Child Policy Connect community

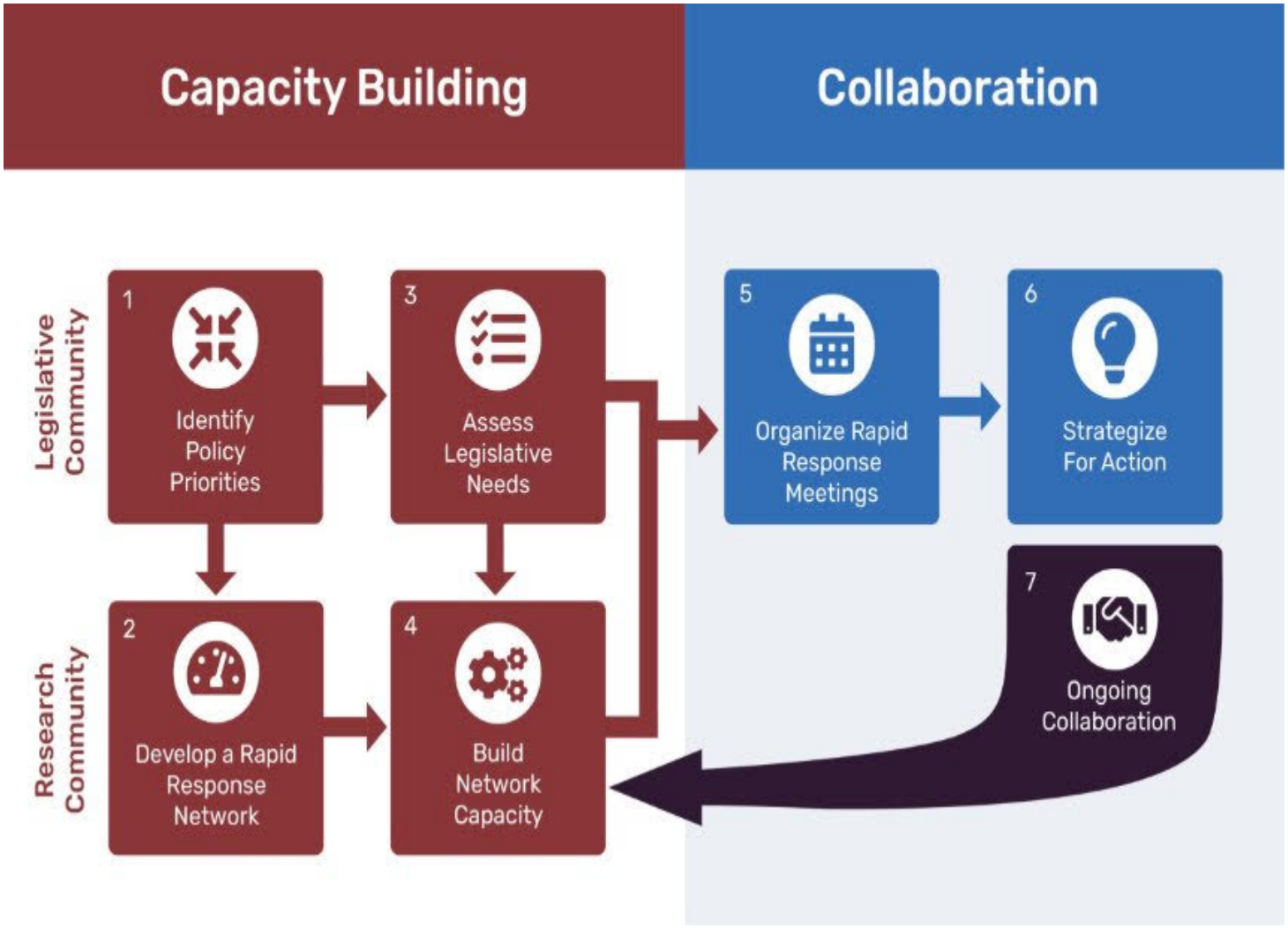
Join SRCD today



Working with the Research-to-Policy Collaboration

SRCD is partnering with the Research-to-Policy Collaboration (RPC), to make our Child Policy Connect program a certified RPC model.

This model has demonstrated success. Randomized controlled trial results show that the RPC model increased Congressional office's use of evidence by 23% and improved the staff's appreciation for and ability to use evidence in their work. Scholars reported a 55% increase in their policy engagement, knowledge of lobbying rules, and a belief that the policy engagement benefitted their research agendas. In short, engaging in this program can help both researchers and Congressional offices.



Connect Quick Guide: Relationship-Based Policy Engagement

See more on why this model works

VISIT RESEARCH-TO-POLICY COLLABORATION RESOURCES

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Navigate the Child Policy Hub:

1. Child Policy Trainings
2. Child Policy Toolkit
3. Child Policy Briefs
4. Science Advocacy