

# 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. NEW for the 2025-2026 cohort, apply to work in New Hampshire or apply with a state placement already identified.

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.

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*"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. SRCDC 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

Starting for the 2025-2026 cohort, there are two ways you can apply to be a state fellow. You can only select one of these options:

1. Apply with SRCD to be placed in [New Hampshire's Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration](#). With this option, you do not need to identify a placement agency before applying to the fellowship. This is a similar process to our federal or Congressional fellowship. If you are selected by SRCD, you will go on to interview with the agency to see if it's a match. [Read on](#) to learn more about why New Hampshire might be the place for you.
2. Find your match in any other state. As an applicant, you will identify a state agency that wants to host you before you apply. This is different to the federal, Congressional, or New Hampshire placements, 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](#).



## **New Hampshire Placement**

[If you want](#) to work in a state agency but do not want to find an agency, or have an interest in New Hampshire, this is the opportunity for you. Starting in the 2025-26 fellowship cohort, you can apply directly to work in New Hampshire's [Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration](#).

Based in Concord, NH, this opportunity will give you a unique lens to early education policy in the state. The New Hampshire fellow will be an integral team member who will assist in strategic planning and implementation of improvements to New Hampshire's early care system, conduct analysis of state child care data and the state's Grantie Steps to Quality Rating and Improvement System, and participate in established research to practice partnership initiatives.

You don't have to live in New Hampshire yet to apply! SRCD supports fellows with a relocation allowance to help you move to Concord or the nearby area. Learn why Robert Frost was inspired to write some of his most iconic poetry. See fall foliage that is the envy of other states. Take a steam automotive up the iconic Mount Washington. Enjoy hiking in the gorgeous White Mountains, apple picking and cideries, culture, maple syrup,

skiing, and even sleigh rides in a state that has a little of everything.

This partnership is made possible by the generous support of the [Couch Family Foundation](#).

Learn more about [25 Fun Things to do in New Hampshire!](#)

[Read the Position Description Here See Why New Hampshire is Right for You](#)

*“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 Scuto Ozerbaugh, SRCF 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 want to host a fellow this coming year. They want you to reach out to them to start a conversation!

State Agency	Title	First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Brief description
California Department of Education, Early Education Division	Deputy Superintendent	Sarah	Neville- Morgan	<a href="mailto:Deputysuperintendent-OFAB@cde.ca.gov">Deputysuperintendent-OFAB@cde.ca.gov</a>		Universal preK, due suspension and ex quality measurem marginalized learn

State Agency	Title	First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Brief description
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood	Director, Division of Community and Family Support	Kendra	Dunn	<a href="mailto:kendra.dunn@state.co.us">kendra.dunn@state.co.us</a>		Child abuse prevention, childhood mental health (IDEA Part C).
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood	Chief of Staff	Katherine	Devine	<a href="mailto:katherine.devine@ct.gov">katherine.devine@ct.gov</a>	860-810-0641	Childcare and Pre-K families.
DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Director, Quality Initiatives	Kathryn	Kigera	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.Kigera@dc.gov">Kathryn.Kigera@dc.gov</a>	202-412-0013	Child care, pre-K supports.
Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood	Assistant State Superintendent	Shayna	Cook	<a href="mailto:shayna.cook@maryland.gov">shayna.cook@maryland.gov</a>	410-767-0821	Child Care/PreK.
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care	Deputy Commissioner for Workforce, Program Support and Innovation	Jocelyn	Bowne	<a href="mailto:jocelyn.bowne@mass.gov">jocelyn.bowne@mass.gov</a>	617-483-3712	We have a broad focused development credential, quality funding, child care could support.
Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families	Assistant Commissioner, Family Well-Being Administration	Shaneen	Moore	<a href="mailto:shaneen.moore@state.mn.us">shaneen.moore@state.mn.us</a>		The fellow would be as needed by the child safety and prevention (economic assistance) childhood (early assistance), and services (food support)

State Agency	Title	First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Brief description
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP)	Deputy Department Director	Emily	Laidlaw	<a href="mailto:Laidlawe1@michigan.gov">Laidlawe1@michigan.gov</a>	517-899-1848	1. Implementation of legislative and in-home based PreK for expansion. 2. Child Development scholarship (subsidy) for departments to provide redetermination. 3. Expanding inclusion for learners
New York State Office of Children and Family Services	Deputy Commissioner	Nora	Yates	<a href="mailto:Nora.yates@ocfs.ny.gov">Nora.yates@ocfs.ny.gov</a>	518-486-6247	Early childhood program coordination across agencies
Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care	Senior Data Analyst	Jaiya	Choles	<a href="mailto:jaiya.choles@delc.oregon.gov">jaiya.choles@delc.oregon.gov</a>	503-507-4991	The Department of Early Learning and Care oversees Oregon's early learning system, including state-funded prekindergarten and prekindergarten based in the agencies for Early Learning Analysis, and Research. DELC works on policy and program development for state-funded early learning from birth through kindergarten. DELC's early learning system and implementation efforts collaborate closely with other agencies.

State Agency	Title	First Name	Last Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Brief description
RI Department of Health	Chief of Perinatal and Early Childhood Health	Blythe	Berger	<a href="mailto:blythe.berger@health.ri.gov">blythe.berger@health.ri.gov</a>	401-222-5949	Early childhood visiting
Virginia Department of Education	Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood	Erin	Carroll	<a href="mailto:erin.carroll@doe.virginia.gov">erin.carroll@doe.virginia.gov</a>	804-292-4149	Birth-to-five policy family day home related to access

When you reach out to a perspective 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

### [Find a State Placement – Webinar \(November 2024\)](#)

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. When you reach out to a perspective 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 [Leising-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](mailto:policy@srcd.org) to set up a connection.
4. Always reach out to [policy@srcd.org](mailto: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](#).

### **Navigate:**

1. [Overview of the Fellowship](#)
2. [How to Apply](#)
3. [FAQs](#)
4. [Congressional Placements](#)
5. [Federal Agency Placements](#)
6. [Our Fellows](#)
7. [State Agencies: Become a Placement](#)