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# 2024 SRCDD Federal Policy Fellow Spotlight: Jazlyn Nketia, Ph.D.

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Administration for Children and Families  
(ACF) Office of Planning, Research, and  
Evaluation (OPRE)  
SRCDD Policy Fellow 2023-24 cohort

**AUTHOR**

## **In a few sentences, what is your role at the agency you work for?**

During my time as a fellow at OPRE, I have worked as a program manager on several grants, contracts, and cooperative agreement spanning OPRE's Child Care and Head Start portfolios. I worked on a variety of grant management activities and support the "federal acquisition process" on new procurements.

## **What interested you in becoming an SRCDD Policy Fellow?**

I was interested in becoming an SRCDD Policy Fellow because I was interested in learning about the innerworkings of federal institutions. Oftentimes, scientists do not have insight into how these institutions work and make recommendations based on assumptions. In the process, I wanted to better understand the

needs of the people served by these institutions. Finally, I was interested in learning about how policymakers employ research in their legislative processes.

**What has been your favorite aspect of SRCD's fellowship? Please explain why.**

My favorite aspect of SRCD's fellowship has been seeing in real time, how the work being done at OPRE contribute to policy. Two briefs from a project in my portfolio were cited as evidence in support of the proposal of the Child Care Workforce Act on July 31, 2024.

**Why should someone else apply for this fellowship?**

The fellowship is an opportunity for individuals who are interested in policy work but do not quite know where in the policy space they would like to work. Although I am placed in the executive branch, I have exposure to how policy works in the legislative branch, as well as how non-governmental organizations contribute to the policy making process.

**What has been an interesting professional development opportunity you have completed during the fellowship?**

This spring, I had the opportunity to attend the SRCD Anti-Racist Developmental Science Summit: Transforming Research, Practices, and Policies in Panama City, Panama. I attended some insightful sessions and met interesting people that are doing important work in this space.

**What is your favorite place you have traveled?**

My favorite place I have traveled is Costa Rica. On this trip I saw some of the most beautiful rainforests, beaches, and wild animals; and met some of the friendliest and open people I've met to date.