



School-Aged and Early Care Fellowship Position Description

The Need:

Our nation is currently battling the COVID-19 pandemic, and a related economic crisis, a double reckoning substantially exacerbated by racial disparities, our shared history of systemic racism, and a lack of trust in government. It is estimated that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, most children will have lost 3-11 months of learning with disproportionate impacts for Black, LatinX and low-income students.

Responding to, and recovering from, the COVID-19 pandemic requires an intensive, all-hands on deck approach to ensure we build and scale new models to recover and rebuild. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, children and students' experiences were varied and inconsistent. Too many children of color and children in low-income communities did not have access to the engaging and inspiring experiences they deserved. And too many families did not have access to high-quality and enriching early care and education for their young children and child care for their school aged children during non-school hours. While progress was being made pre-pandemic, there were still significant opportunity gaps and not enough support for families and their children.

Participation in high quality early care and education programs can improve developmental and school readiness outcomes for young children. Yet many children of color and children in low-income communities don't have access to high quality and engaging early care and education environments. Additionally, after school and summer learning are evidence-based interventions to support school age children's social emotional and academic wellbeing and outcomes. Across the nation there are many examples of communities, schools, districts and organizations that have successfully implemented afterschool and summer learning as a strategy to support outcomes for students and thriving families and communities.

The Opportunity:

The School-Aged and Early Care Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for an individual with expertise in Early Care and Education and Afterschool and Summer Learning to support the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) mission to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services. In particular, the Fellowship would support HHS's Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Office of Human Services Policy's (HSP) Division of Children and Youth Policy (CYP), which focuses on policies related to the well-being of children and youth, including early care and education, afterschool and summer learning, home visiting, youth development and risky behaviors, parenting and family support, child welfare and foster care, and linkages with physical and mental health. The Fellow would work with CYP's Early



Childhood Team and would report directly to the Early Childhood Team Lead and CYP Division Director.

The Fellow's primary charge would be to support COVID-19 recovery by working alongside officials in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to utilize the robust early care and education and/or afterschool and summer learning networks and models to mitigate developmental delays and learning loss and support social-emotional development, especially for children and families who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

The Fellow is to be responsible for identifying promising practices from the field, supporting interagency work, and harnessing the full power of Federal Agencies to support States, districts, schools, and communities to rebuild their early care and education and afterschool and summer programs with equity, engagement, and community partnership as a primary focus. This Fellow also will work collaboratively with early care and education groups and in-school and out-of-school groups to spotlight strong examples and promote innovations in early care and education and new models for afterschool and summer learning.

In addition to working with offices across HHS, the Fellow will coordinate with other Federal Agencies that support early care and education and afterschool and summer learning opportunities. These include but are not limited to: the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS/AmeriCorps), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Park Service, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Justice.

The Fellow's duties and responsibilities at ASPE/HSP will include but are not limited to the following:

- Identifying promising and proven practices from the research base including studies funded by HHS and ED, early care and education networks, State afterschool networks, out-of-school-time providers, and other expanded learning providers.
- Conducting a gap analysis to determine opportunities to expand research around effective strategies to utilize early care and education providers and programs and out of school time to support learning acceleration for children's social emotional and academic needs including but not limited to STEM.
- Coordinating with organizations and individuals with expertise in early care and education, afterschool and summer learning and informal STEM to support the discovery and scaling of evidence-based practices.
- Utilizing HHS resources to enable new collaboration models and approaches that support child and family outcomes in partnership with ASPE and program offices in

HHS's Administration for Children and Families (ACF) offices such as the Office of Child Care, Office of Head Start, Office of Early Childhood Development, Children's Bureau, and Family and Youth Services Bureau t.

- Establishing regular communication and connection points with the Office of Child Care (OCC) and other relevant offices in ACF that support work with school-aged child care.
- In partnership with OCC and other relevant HHS offices, working with other Federal Agencies and offices by providing evidence-based practices and data to ensure coherent and aligned policies and actions in support of rebuilding and reimagining early care and education, afterschool and summer learning.
- Coordinating with the Fellow's supervisor and consulting with relevant staff in ASPE and OCC to coordinate regular communications to the field that highlight evidence-based practices and funding opportunities.
- Building connections between HSP's Early Childhood Team and Youth Team by focusing on opportunities to better support children's education and development during the middle childhood years (ages 6-10)
- Incorporating feedback and advice from their supervisor and other HHS colleagues to ensure quality work products.
- Coordinating with their supervisor and working with other Federal Agencies to strengthen collaboration between HHS and other Federal partners, such as those listed above, in the area of early care and education, afterschool and summer learning.
- Identifying opportunities for HHS colleagues with responsibilities to improve early care and education, afterschool and summer learning opportunities to leverage the Fellow's expertise and ASPE's evidence-based resources.
- Identifying opportunities (e.g., convenings, events, speeches, and other communications) to highlight models, interventions, and policies in early care and education, afterschool and summer learning at the State and local levels that others can learn from and replicate, as appropriate.
- Identifying opportunities to provide content area expertise around early care and education, afterschool and summer learning practices and approaches.

The Person:

The ideal candidate for this role is an intrapreneurial and collaborative problem solver passionate about expanded learning, as well as educational equity. This person must be highly self-motivated, organized and excel at implementation of priorities.

- *U.S. Citizenship required.*
- *Background investigation/security clearance and verification that he or she has not defaulted on any loan funded or guaranteed by ED required.*
- *Military selective service registration by the date of appointment as a STEM Next Opportunity Fund Fellow required (applicable only to males born after December 31, 1959).*



- *Bachelor's degree required, although a graduate degree is strongly preferred.*
- *10+ years of experience in education required, with experience in early care and education, afterschool and summer learning and/or educational equity preferred.*
- *5+ years of experience in early care and education policy required.*
- *Previous experience building relationships across diverse groups of stakeholders required.*
- *Previous experience working in the Federal Government preferred.*

All Fellows are required to pass a background check and security clearance as required by their Federal Agency.

To Apply:

Please submit a written application here - <https://forms.gle/o8vr4vMt8w4fYfeA7> by August 22nd at 5pm PT.

Salary and Benefits:

The Salary Range for this position is \$115,000-\$165,000. STEM Next provides paid time off, sick leave and 13 federal holidays. STEM Next provides a comprehensive set of benefits including: Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, 401(k) Retirement Plan, and Health Savings Account and Flexible Spending Account.

STEM Next provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics.