



## Early Learning Fellows 2020

Application • **Due BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020**

### OVERVIEW

The **National Conference of State Legislatures** is pleased to announce its 9<sup>th</sup> year of the Early Learning Fellows Program for state legislators and legislative staff.

The Early Learning Fellows Program has been supporting legislators and staff, since 2011, who are experienced or emerging leaders on early childhood and early learning issues. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: child care, financing strategies, early childhood data systems, home visiting, prekindergarten, early childhood teachers and the workforce, and early childhood mental health.

The program is geared toward those chairing or serving on human services, education or appropriation committees who want to expand their knowledge and learn from other legislators and leading experts from across the country and NCSL staff.

NCSL's Early Learning Fellows program in 2020 is made possible by funding from the Alliance for Early Success, and The Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

### GOALS

Accepted participants into the Early Learning Fellows Program will have the opportunity to be part of a peer learning community with other legislators and staff and will be able to directly engage with leading research and policy experts in the field.

State legislatures address program and policy issues such as providing high-quality child care, prekindergarten best practices, financing strategies such as social impact bonds, early childhood teacher professional development, family support programs like home visiting and early childhood governance structures. These and other identified innovative topics and cost-effective strategies will be covered during the programs two face-to-face meetings and two webinars.

At the conclusion of the program, Early Learning Fellows become part of an **alumni community** with close to **250 members** throughout the states and territories.

As a participant in the program you will:

- Build your knowledge alongside legislators and staff about new research and policy.
- Be part of a peer learning environment fostering the exchange of ideas and solutions related to early learning, the opportunity gap, and many other issues.
- Meet, connect and learn from other legislative leaders.
- Identify action steps as part of a practical early learning plan for immediate use in your state.
- Receive the exclusive opportunity to speak and learn from leading researchers and policy experts.

“The Fellows program was a unique experience that provided me with in-depth insights of early childhood learning and provided me with a wealth of knowledge that I will use to support the educational programs for children in New York. The information presented to me by colleagues and professionals has undoubtedly made me better prepared to take on educational issues facing New York State.” **former Senator Phillips (R-N.Y.)— Cohort 6**



NCSL will provide financial support for travel, lodging and meals for selected applicants to attend two **face-to-face meetings** June 17-19 in Denver, Colo. & Sept. 9-11, 2020 in Seattle, Wash. (tentative location)



Questions? Contact  
Alison May  
[alison.may@ncsl.org](mailto:alison.may@ncsl.org)  
303-856-1473



Visit [www.ncsl.org/fellows](http://www.ncsl.org/fellows) for more information





## Early Learning Fellows 2020

Selected Early Learning Fellows will participate in two face-to-face meetings and two webinars during the program.

- **Welcome Conference Call.** Opportunity to learn about the program, participants and understand what to expect as an Early Learning Fellow. Late May/Early June – invite to follow.
- **Kickoff Meeting.** The program will start with a reception at **6 p.m. on Wed., June 17 and will conclude by 3 p.m. on Fri., June 19 in Denver, Colo.** Participants can expect a robust agenda including presentations highlighting the science of early brain development; the economic case for investing in the early years; and a tour of Educare a high-quality, center-based early childhood program.
- **Second Meeting.** The program will continue with a second meeting in **Seattle, Wash. from 6 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 9 through 3 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 11.** In Seattle participants can anticipate sessions about the early childhood workforce, financing strategies, and other policy innovations in early care and education. *\*NOTE this location is currently tentative and we're exploring other options due to COVID-19 outbreak.*
- **Early Learning Fellows Webinars.** Fellows must participate in **two webinars.** Webinars will be at 2 p.m. ET on **July 16** (early childhood governance structures) and **Aug. 27** (NCSL's annual early care and education budget survey).

"The deep dives into early childhood experiences and insight gained from colleagues from around the country has been invaluable as I work to strengthen our state's policies and programs for our young children. Undeniably I am a better legislator for having joined the fellows program". **Senator Millett (D-Maine)—Cohort 5**

Early Learning Fellows are **expected** to participate in BOTH face-to-face meetings and the TWO webinars. Additional opportunities are optional. We understand that schedules are busy and if your schedule will NOT permit your attendance and participation in each of the components of this program please consider refraining from applying.

NCSL will cover the participation costs, through grants from our generous funders as follows: coach airfare up to **\$500**, along with the cost of the baggage fee for one piece of luggage; however, any potential accrued change fees will not be covered. Two nights of lodging at both meetings. During each meeting, meals and snacks will be provided. NCSL will not reimburse for food items purchased during times when food is offered.

### GUIDELINES

- Leadership has been asked to recommend legislators to apply to be considered as participants in the Early Learning Fellows Program. Legislators who would like to apply, and have not yet been approved, must gain clearance with leadership in their state before submitting an application. Legislative staff may apply with permission from their supervisor.
- To be considered as an Early Learning Fellow, **fill out the application completely.** Make sure you are **available to attend** both meetings; June 17-19 in Denver and Sept. 9-11 in Seattle (tentative location for second meeting), as well as participate in two webinars July 16 and Aug. 27.
- This is a **competitive** process; a timely response will increase the likelihood that you will be selected. **Please reply by Wednesday, April 15, 2020.**

### CRITERIA

- NCSL will review and score completed applications and select up to **30 participants** to be part of the Early Learning Fellows Program.
- Legislators and legislative staff will be chosen based on geographic representation, balance of political party make-up and overall points awarded for thoroughness of application responses. Applicants will be notified by **Apr. 24, 2020** and if selected, will receive information about booking to attend the June 17-19 meeting in Denver.
- Please understand that not all applicants will be accepted into this program.

### APPLICATION

Please fully complete the application and **send it to Riley Sawyer by email: riley.sawyer@ncsl.org or fax: 303-856-2551 no later than Wednesday, April 15, 2020.**



*Early Learning Fellows 2020*

**Application Checklist:**

- Complete the General Information (section I)
- Submit a short Bio or Resume (section II)
- Submit answers to the Narrative Information (section III)

THIS IS A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL SCORE YOUR APPLICATION BASED ON THE COMPLETENESS AND THOROUGHNESS OF YOUR RESPONSES.

**I. General Information.**

State:	
Name:	
Title:	
Preferred mailing address:	
Phone   Capitol:	Mobile/Home:
Email:	
Alternate Email:	Staff Email to CC:
Length of time in the Legislature: _____ YEARS	
Legislative Committees on which you serve, for how long and are you chair:	
<u>Committee name</u>	<u>How long have you been on this committee?</u>
	<u>Are you a chair of the committee?</u>
Have you attended NCSL policy meetings in the past: YES NO	
If yes, which meetings: _____	
Are you a member of NCSL Executive Committee: YES NO	

**II. Attach a copy of your bio or resume.**

**III. Narrative Information (please use additional pages as needed to thoroughly answer questions).**

**1. Select below by circling up to five early care and education policy issues that are legislative priorities for you in your state:**

This will assist in educational programming during the Early Learning Fellows Program.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)                   | Financing Strategies                                       |
| Child Care (subsidy, quality, federal reauthorization) | Governance and Systems Building                            |
| Early Childhood Data Systems                           | Home Visiting and Parent Education/Engagement              |
| Early Childhood Mental Health                          | Paid Family and Medical Leave                              |
| Early Childhood Teachers/Workforce                     | Prekindergarten  |
| Equity in Early Childhood                              | Prenatal-to-Three Issues (including maternal/child health) |
| Family First Prevention Services Act/Child Welfare     | Suspension and Expulsion in the Early Years                |
| OTHER _____  |  |

**2. Select below by circling how you would rate your knowledge about early care and education policy topics?**

This will assist in educational programming during the Early Learning Fellows Program.

- a. Novice/beginner – limited knowledge base
- b. Intermediate – know some of the key ideas, but interested in digging deeper
- c. Master – would be interested in presenting at the meeting about the work I’ve spearheaded/been involved with in my state

**3. Answer the following questions as completely as possible. The selection committee will score your application on the completeness and thoroughness of your responses.**

<p><b>Question:</b> Thoroughly describe your background and experience working on early care and education issues. We are interested in both your PROFESSIONAL and LEGISLATIVE experiences.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> PROFESSIONAL examples might include being a principal, teacher, child care administrator/worker, parent, other. LEGISLATIVE examples might include sponsoring or wanting to sponsor legislation, being a member of a related committee, participating on children’s caucus, or other.</p> <p><b>Score:</b> This question will receive 0-10 points.</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b></p>
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**Question:** Why are you interested in being an NCSL Early Learning Fellow?

**Examples from previous Fellows have included:** deepening your early care and education policy knowledge, returning to your state and introducing legislation, creating a new interim committee, informing colleagues on the topic, knowledge about this competitive program through alumni, early care and education conversations are gaining momentum in your state, other.

**Score:** This question will receive 0-15 points.

**Answer:**

**Question:** Describe your state's recent efforts related to early care and education. If there has been no recent effort in your state describe what you might like to see in your state in the future.

**Examples from previous Fellows have included:** have appropriated additional funds for prekindergarten, participated in a child care interim committee that drafted recommendations for the legislature, created and/or participated in a study group about childhood expulsion and suspension, other.

**Score:** This question will receive 0-5 points.

**Answer:**

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO RILEY SAWYER BY**

**EMAIL: [RILEY.SAWYER@NCSL.ORG](mailto:RILEY.SAWYER@NCSL.ORG) OR FAX: 303-856-2551**

**NO LATER THAN [WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020](#).**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION OR PROGRAM, CONTACT ALISON MAY BY PHONE/EMAIL**

**303-856-1473 / [ALISON.MAY@NCSL.ORG](mailto:ALISON.MAY@NCSL.ORG)**