

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Health Policy Fellows

From: Office of Foundation Relations
Coordinator: Nicole Dancz, Assistant Director, Foundation Relations (nicole.dancz@emory.edu)
Website: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2021/robert-wood-johnson-foundation-health-policy-fellows-2022-2023.html>
Submission Limitations: None
Foundation Deadline: Preliminary Application due: **November 12th, 2021, 3:00 p.m. ET** Three reference letters will be due **November 9th, 2021, 3:00 p.m. ET** Finalists will be selected January 11, 2022 and Full Applications will be due February 11, 2022, 3:00 p.m. ET.

Please contact your RAS unit ***and Nicole Dancz to inform them of your intent to submit.***

Purpose:

The RWJF Health Policy Fellows program provides the nation's most comprehensive learning experience at the nexus of health, science, and policy in Washington, D.C. It is an outstanding opportunity for exceptional midcareer health professionals and behavioral/social scientists with an interest in health and health care policy. Fellows participate in the policy process at the federal level and use that leadership experience to improve health equity, health care, and health policy.

The fellowship requires a full-time commitment with a minimum 12-month residence in Washington, D.C., which prepares individuals to influence the future of health and health care in the nation.

The fellowship begins in September with an intensive three-and-a-half-month orientation arranged by the NAM, during which time the fellows meet with national leaders well-versed in health, health care policy, health equity, social determinants of health, and structural racism; think tanks and interest groups; key executive branch officials; and members of Congress and their staffs. Fellows also participate in seminars on health economics; the congressional budget process; current priority issues in federal health policy; and the process for federal decision-making. The concentrated orientation is designed to prepare the fellows for immediate success in federal legislative and executive branch positions.

The NAM will assist all fellows in setting up placement interviews. Each fellow is, however, solely responsible for selecting and securing his or her placement in a Federal government office in Washington, D.C., no later than January 15, 2023.

Fellowship placements generally begin no later than January 31. During these assignments, fellows are full-time, contributing participants in the policy process with members of Congress, a congressional committee, or in the executive branch. Solely under the supervision of the office in which they are placed, fellows typically will:

- Help develop legislative or regulatory proposals;
- Organize hearings, briefings, and stakeholder meetings;
- Meet with constituents;
- Brief legislators or senior administration officials on a range of health issues; and
- Provide staff support for House-Senate conferences.

Fellowship assignments are supplemented throughout the year by nonpartisan seminars and group discussions on contemporary federal policy topics, as well as media/strategic communications training and leadership development activities. Fellows are asked to prepare a formal presentation on a health policy issue with which they have been engaged. Fellows also take part in NAM meetings and with other health policy organizations.

Fellows may request approval from the national program office (NPO) at the NAM to extend the Washington stay past the 12-month residential period of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023, through the legislative session or until December 31, 2023. A fellow may carry out additional activities with the support of any remaining funds until August 31, 2024, subject to review and approval of those activities by the NPO and RWJF.

After the Washington residential experience, fellows become part of a nationwide alumni network and typically return to Washington each year to attend an Alumni Retreat and the NAM Annual Meeting, and to be briefed on issues and trends in health and health care policy.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- Exceptional midcareer professionals from academic faculties; government (including military; U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs; U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; and state offices who are not considered government officials under Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code);* and nonprofit organizations, who are interested in experiencing the health policy process at the federal level, are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must have earned an advanced degree in one of the following disciplines: medicine; nursing; public health; allied health professions; biomedical sciences; dentistry; economics or other social sciences; health services organization and administration; social and behavioral health; or health law.
- Applicants whose official job description or responsibilities are primarily government relations or advocacy are not eligible to apply.
- Individual candidates for receipt of award funds must be U.S. citizens, or permanent residents at the time of application. Because the RWJF Health Policy Fellows are placed in assignments in the federal government, changes in federal policy or law may necessitate that RWJF consider adjustments in eligibility and grant terms, as well as placements in the program.
- Additionally, individual candidates for receipt of award funds cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidates for this fellowship have a record of exceptional professional accomplishment and are a recognized expert within their profession, community, institution, or organization. The fellowship strongly encourages individuals with diverse backgrounds, ideologies, and perspectives to apply. Because of the unique nature of working on Capitol Hill or in the executive branch and the uncertainty that often accompanies the legislative process, individuals who are flexible, team players, and fast learners tend to be more successful. A positive attitude, confidence, sense of humor, humility, listening skills, discretion, and patience

SELECTION CRITERIA

Members of the RWJF Health Policy Fellows advisory board will assess each applicant, based on the following criteria:

- Professional achievements;
- Potential for leadership in health policy;
- Potential for future growth and career advancement;
- Potential for significant contributions to improving health, equity, and well-being in the nation;
- Interpersonal and communications skills;
- Individual plans for incorporating the fellowship experience into specific career goals.

By mid-January 2022, the advisory board will select finalists from the applicants for inperson interviews in Washington, D.C., which will be held on February 16, 2022. Applicants who are selected for interviews will receive details about the remainder of the process upon invitation.

Key Dates

- **September 22, 2021 (11 a.m. ET) and October 26, 2021 (2 p.m. ET)**
Optional applicant web conference calls. Registration is required. Please [visit this link](#) for complete details and to register.
- **November 9, 2021 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of three reference letters.*
- **November 12, 2021 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of preliminary applications.*
- **January 11, 2022**
Selection of finalists.
- **February 11, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of full applications.
- **February 16, 2022**
Finalist interviews with advisory board.
- **February 17, 2022**
Selection and notification.
- **September 1, 2022**
Start of grants.

Total Awards

- Up to six awards of up to \$165,000 each will be made in 2022.
- During the first 12 months of the fellowship, a stipend of up to \$104,000 (not to exceed the fellow's salary prior to entering the program) in fellowship funds may be requested.
- For more details, refer to "Use of Foundation Funds" on page 7 of the Call for Applications.
- Fellows will be directly reimbursed for relocation expenses through separate funds within limits specified by the NAM.

Application Components: Applicants should work with their RAS unit and the Office of Foundation Relations before final submission to the sponsor.

Phase 1: Preliminary Application

- Enter personal and contact information, including the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of three references who have been asked to comment on the applicant's qualifications for the program. Reference letters should address the Selection Criteria on page 4 and should be submitted electronically by 3 p.m. ET on November 9, 2021. Applicants are urged to actively track the status of the submission of required letters of reference. Please note that all reference letters should be submitted by November 9, 2021, to enable submission of the complete application package by the November 12 deadline.
- Prepare in advance the following documents
 - An up-to-date curriculum vitae with dates (no more than five pages).
 - Three essays on the following topics:
 - A one-page biographical sketch that elaborates on how your personal background and experiences shape your world view and understanding of health; the highlights of your career; describes how it has evolved; discusses the accomplishments of which you are most proud; and the factors that have motivated you to apply for the fellowship (no more than one page).
 - Reflecting on your lived experience, your career and accomplishments, what inspires you about the possibility of becoming an RWJF Health Policy Fellow? Please include what you have done in the past, the unique perspectives you bring to the program, and what you hope to do in the future to build a better, more inclusive, healthier and more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy life (no more than one page).

- You are serving as a health policy adviser to a Member of Congress or the head of a federal agency. Prepare a memo describing a current health policy challenge, and recommend an approach that the nation should take to address this challenge (no more than two pages).
- Applicants who become finalists will be invited to complete a full application that will include a proposed budget of up to \$165,000. Track 1 applicants will also submit a letter from their sponsoring institution's chief executive officer affirming the institution's willingness to serve as an adviser to the applicant; to cultivate the fellow's growth as a health policy leader during the funding period of up to 24 months; and to administer the grant and comply with RWJF's grant reporting requirements.
- RWJF does not provide individual critiques of applications submitted.
- All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late submissions.