ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

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<th>Project:</th>
<th>Advancing a Strong and Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care System as New York Recovers from COVID-19</th>
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<td>Organization:</td>
<td>United Neighborhood Houses (New York, NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing 44 settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers. UNH mobilizes our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH knows that economic justice and equity are impossible to achieve without overcoming anti-Black animosity, structural and institutional racism, and white supremacist values that underpin so much of American society. We commit to leveraging a racial equity lens in our work. Learn more at [https://www.unhny.org/](https://www.unhny.org/)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Leading Edge Fellow will advance UNH’s long-standing advocacy for funding, policies, and programs that increase access to child care in New York, in the increasingly dire circumstances caused by disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Childcare is essential for children’s healthy development and educational success and is a key economic driver. Yet, in New York City, 93% of families cannot afford the current market rate for center-based care. UNH believes that all families should have access to early childhood education and care.

The 2021-2022 school year is a critical time for New York families with young children. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, community-based organizations and government must respond to families who have endured trauma and learning loss. UNH’s settlement house members are prominent, respected providers of childcare and committed to supporting families. They look to UNH for insight about approaches to early childhood education as well as to advocate for sufficient funding to meet community needs, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color.

The Leading Edge Fellow will generate written reports and products that include quantitative and qualitative data with two goals: to support effective advocacy at the New York City and State level and to provide information that settlement houses and other community-based organizations can use to enhance programming for children and families. The Fellow will learn about both policy and programmatic aspects of childcare and how to conduct advocacy. They will frequently interact with the policy and advocacy experts at UNH – including their supervisor, the Director of Policy & Advocacy, and the Executive Director, as well as the program experts at the settlement houses. The Fellow will join the existing Child Care Issues Group of settlement house staff, allowing them to understand community needs around early childhood education and care as well as key advocacy priorities. After learning about New York City and State budget cycles and key advocacy timing and strategy, the Fellow will analyze and track community needs and policy trends over time. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Responsibilities and tasks:

- Advocate to elected and appointed officials and their staff for funding and policies that support early childhood education and care services
- Plan and participate in meetings, writing, and delivering testimony at public hearings, organizing rallies, and collecting and sharing family stories
- Crafting of timely policy briefs, analysis, reports, and other materials that advance advocacy goals and strengthen community-based programming

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships);
- Strong writing, communication, and time-management skills;
- Commitment to racial and social justice, with an understanding of the needs of communities served by settlement houses

Preferred:

- Experience with research and data analysis, using Microsoft Office products

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships)
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021

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