



“The John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship has been a tremendous experience for me professionally. This opportunity has given me an in-depth understanding of partisan and interest group politics, Senate procedure, and health and aging policy individually as well as how these forces interact. The world of ‘Capitol Hill’ is more complex than I could have ever imagined. This fellowship has provided me with hands-on, useful knowledge and experience of how Capitol Hill actually operates. It has given me ideas on how to work within the complexity and how to better bridge the worlds of research, practice, and policy to improve the lives of older adults.”

Gretchen Alkema, PhD, LCSW

*Vice President, Policy and Communications,
The SCAN Foundation
2008-2009 John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow
in the Office of Senator Blanche Lincoln*



“Transformative is the word staffers use to talk about the goals of health care reform in Washington, and at the risk of overuse, transformative is the word to describe my fellowship experience. As a non-residential fellow working a few days a month in Rockefeller’s office, I have learned the Federal policy dance, been impressed with staff knowledge on the intricacies on health care, and been inspired to continue working in the health policy field. I’ve been able to assist in pushing ahead the issues I care most about: policy-making for the duals – people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits – and Part D.”

Judy Zerzan, MD, MPH

*Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine,
University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine
2008-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow
in the Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV*

How to Apply

The application requires answering the application questions (which can be found at <http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/apply/index.html>) and submitting a cv and one-page biosketch. There is no application form. Three letters of reference are also required.

Interviews of finalists in Washington, DC and selection of fellows will occur in June.

For complete information on how to apply and application deadlines, please visit our website at: www.healthandagingpolicy.org.

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows program is directed by Harold Alan Pincus, MD, Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University (in collaboration with the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program) and made possible by the generous support of The Atlantic Philanthropies.



The mission of The Atlantic Philanthropies is to bring about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Through its Ageing Programme, The Atlantic Philanthropies aims to help transform how aging is viewed within society and improve the way older persons are treated by society. They focus on aging in Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States. General aims include ensuring that older adults:

- are treated with dignity and respect;
- are fully empowered to shape their own destinies;
- have access to health and support systems;
- are represented by a strong cadre of leaders; and
- are able to contribute actively their expertise and abilities for the good of society.

HEALTH AND AGING POLICY FELLOWS



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About the Program

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program was established in January 2008 with generous support from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The goal of the program is to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to help affect policy and to create a cadre of leaders who will serve as change agents in health and aging policy that will ultimately improve the health of older adults.

Program Tracks

The program offers two different tracks: *Residential and Non-Residential*.

Residential fellows work full-time in the policy environment of their choice – state or federal. Policy training can be obtained by working as a legislative assistant, as professional staff in executive agencies, or with ‘think tank’ organizations.

Non-Residential fellows stay in their current positions while working on a specific policy project. The project involves short periods of travel throughout the year to relevant sites.

In addition to policy experience and projects, all fellows receive a core training program that is focused on current policy issues, communication skills development, and professional networking opportunities.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Fellows are selected based on their commitment to health and aging issues, leadership potential, and interest in aging-relevant policies. The program is multidisciplinary and open to professionals at all career stages.

Fellowship Stipend and Other Financial Support

Stipends for residential fellows range and are commensurate with each individual’s current salary (up to \$120,000). In addition to a stipend, financial support is provided for travel, relocation, and health insurance. Non-residential fellows submit a budget proposal of up to \$30,000 to cover related project costs which may also include support for a portion of their time spent participating in program activities. Travel costs to fellowship-related meetings for all fellows are reimbursed by the National Program Office and are in addition to residential fellows’ stipends and non-residential fellows’ budgets.

Fellows can also apply for second-year funding to continue components of their fellowship experience/project.

National Advisory Board and Mentors

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows National Advisory Board (NAB) consists of prominent leaders in government, academia, and the private sector who possess expertise and experience in health, aging, and policy issues. NAB members provide guidance for program direction, serve on the Selection Committee, and serve as mentors to fellows. The list of NAB members can be found at http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/about/advisory_board.html.

Each fellow is paired with one or more NAB members or another national expert(s) who serve as the fellow’s primary policy mentor, assisting them in linking with appropriate colleagues and policymakers (both inside and outside of government), and building related networks.

Partnerships

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is delighted to partner with the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program. Founded in 1953, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program is the nation’s oldest and most prestigious congressional fellowship. The Health and Aging Policy Fellows participate in all APSA Congressional Fellowship Program activities.

We are equally delighted with our partnership with the John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging. Our programs have combined to create the joint John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship. Each year, one individual will be designated the John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow.

We have also had strong collaborations with the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Practice Change Fellows Program, the Gerontological Society of American (GSA), AcademyHealth, AARP, the American Society on Aging (ASA), the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the American Geriatrics Society, as well as multiple Executive Branch agencies including: the National Institute on Aging, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Administration on Aging, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others.



Robert Blancato (from Matz Blancato & Associates) speaking with fellows at the Aging Policy Orientation.