



The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation

IN COOPERATION WITH



ANNOUNCES THE 2026

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

BACKGROUND

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation has announced the next competition for its International Public Policy Fellowship Program. Two Fellowships will be awarded to exemplary professionals, and/or persons experiencing disability and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. International Public Policy Fellowship will prepare the successful candidate to assume leadership in inclusive education in their home country or internationally. The fellows will work within UNICEF offices.

Around the world, UNICEF aims to ensure equitable access to quality education, improved learning outcomes, inclusion, lifelong learning, and continuity of learning in both humanitarian and development settings. In 144 countries, UNICEF works to provide quality learning opportunities that prepare children and adolescents with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in today's world. Leveraging innovation, data, and cross-sectoral collaboration, UNICEF works with governments and partners to make education systems more resilient, relevant, inclusive, and empowering — with a focus on reaching children and adolescents who are left furthest behind, including those with disabilities.

During this one-year Fellowship, the successful applicant will learn how policies, programs, legislation, and regulations are developed and administered by national and international agencies. Former Public Policy Fellows describe the Fellowship as a significant turning point in their professional and personal lives; the experience is a unique chance to understand the intersection of public policy, disability advocacy, and the political process.

In cooperation with UNICEF, the Foundation is seeking two Fellows.

- One Fellow will be placed in the UNICEF **Centre of Excellence in Education**, Amman, Jordan.
- The second Fellow will be placed in one of the following offices:
 - UNICEF **Maldives Country Office**, Boduthakurufaanu Magu, Republic of Maldives
 - UNICEF **Pacific Multi-country Office**, Suva, Fiji
 - UNICEF **Philippines Country Office**, Manila, Philippines

The fellowship will be awarded in early 2026 and will begin in the first quarter of 2026. Orientation will include participation in a leadership course at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ongoing mentorship will be provided by the Foundation and by a network of former Kennedy Fellows. The initial commitment will be for one year. After six months, the Foundation may consider extending the Fellowship for a second year.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

We seek applicants with distinguished involvement in efforts to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities at the local, regional or national level, particularly in low-income settings. Relevant experience would include:

1. Advocacy for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families;
2. Experience in including children with intellectual disabilities in education which is inclusive of all children;
3. Field experience in programme design in inclusive education, implementation and monitoring;
4. Master's Degree or Equivalent in inclusive education

The expectation is that Fellows will become future leaders in inclusive community supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After their Fellowship, it is anticipated that former Fellows will make significant contributions to policy and program development in their home country or internationally. The Fellowship includes a stipend and modest relocation expenses if necessary.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

Applicants should:

- Submit a letter of application between 2 and no more than 4 pages in length, clearly showing the candidate's name, address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address on the first page.
- State which of the four placements they are applying for (applicants may be considered for more than one site).
- State their background and history in the field of services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, interests and accomplishments to date, as well as what they hope to do with the knowledge and experience gained from the fellowship.
- Attach either a résumé detailing their work and educational experience or a summary of their involvement in the field.
- Submit three letters of support from people familiar with their work. Letters of support are encouraged via an e-mail PDF file.
- **The sole method of application, letters and résumé submission is via e-mail attachment** (i.e. not in the body of the e-mail) to richlerjpkf@gmail.com
- The application deadline for 2026 is December 31, 2025, by 5:00 P.M. EST

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

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Since its founding in 1946, the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, named in honor of Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., who died in action in World War II, has supported the creation of practical programs to benefit persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and their communities. The Foundation has always worked with national leaders who understand the promise and realities of government.