

## **2026 Title IV-E Roundtable Student Fellows**

### **Objectives for Submission Criteria in the Selection Process**

1. **Promote Connection and Collaboration:** Encourage proposals that demonstrate the importance of building strong connections among child welfare professionals, families, educators, and community stakeholders. Emphasize the need for collaborative approaches that foster trust and shared goals.
2. **Highlight Deep Roots in Community:** Seek submissions that illustrate how the proposed initiatives are grounded in the values, culture, and history of the communities they serve. Highlight the importance of understanding local contexts and the role of community-based solutions in enhancing the child welfare workforce.
3. **Emphasize Longevity and Sustainability:** Prioritize proposals that outline sustainable strategies for addressing child welfare challenges. This includes identifying long-term funding sources, training opportunities, and professional development pathways that ensure the resilience and stability of the workforce.
4. **Foster Future Investment:** Encourage innovative approaches that focus on future investments in the child welfare system. This includes mentorship programs, career advancement initiatives, and partnerships with educational institutions to create a pipeline of skilled professionals committed to child welfare.
5. **Support Hope-Centered Practice:** Seek submissions that incorporate hope-centered practices, emphasizing strengths-based approaches that empower children, families, and professionals. Proposals should demonstrate how these practices can lead to positive outcomes and create a culture of hope within the child welfare system.
6. **Address Specific Challenges in Child Welfare:** Encourage proposals that identify and tackle specific challenges faced by children, families, and child welfare professionals. Submissions should include data-driven insights and personal narratives that highlight everyday experiences and systemic barriers within the child welfare system.
7. **Integrate Innovative Solutions:** Prioritize innovative and creative approaches that leverage technology, community resources, and interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance the child welfare workforce. Encourage submissions that propose novel frameworks, tools, or methodologies that can be implemented effectively.

8. **Enhance Understanding of Stakeholder Experiences:** Seek proposals that prioritize lived experiences, ensuring that the voices of children, families, and professionals are included in the development of solutions. This can enhance empathy, understanding, and responsiveness within the child welfare system.
9. **Measure Impact and Outcomes:** Encourage submissions that outline clear metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of proposed initiatives. This includes qualitative and quantitative measures that assess the impact on children's well-being, family stability, and workforce satisfaction.
10. **Promote Equity and Inclusion:** Emphasize the importance of equity in all proposals, ensuring that solutions are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all families and communities, particularly those that have been historically marginalized within the child welfare system.

By focusing on these objectives, the selection process can encourage innovative, community-rooted, and sustainable approaches that enhance the child welfare workforce while supporting the well-being of children and families.