The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation has announced the next round of its International Public Policy Fellowship Program. Up to 2 Fellowships will be awarded to exemplary professionals, and/or persons experiencing disability and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are 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 both early career and more seasoned leaders to assume leadership in the public policy arena in their home country or internationally.

The 2018 Fellowships will focus on either the inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities in inclusive education systems or on the full respect of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

During this one-year Fellowship, the successful applicants will learn how legislation is initiated, developed, and adopted, as well as how programs are administered and regulations promulgated by national and international agencies. Former Public Policy Fellows describe the Fellowship as a major 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 2018, the Foundation is seeking Fellows for the following placements:

1. UNICEF Country Office, Kathmandu, Nepal (Fellowship in inclusive education)
2. UNICEF Headquarters, New York, USA (Fellowship in inclusive education)
3. Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Geneva, Switzerland (Fellowship in disability rights)

Up to 2 fellowships will be awarded in late 2018 for the 2019 calendar year. Orientation will include participation in the course “Leadership for the 21st Century” 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. In September 2019 the Foundation may consider extending the Fellowship for a second year.
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 and middle-income settings. Relevant experience would include:

1. Advocacy for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families;
2. Development of inclusive community supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
3. Development of training programs for people with disabilities, families and communities; and
4. The development or improvements of family support services, programs focused on increasing individual’s control of resources and decisions impacting their lives, and/or technology in support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The placements with UNICEF require:

1. Experience in including children with intellectual disabilities in education which is inclusive of all children;
2. Master’s Degree or Equivalent in inclusive education

The expectation is that Fellows will become future leaders in the field of inclusive community supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After their Fellowship, it is anticipated that former Kennedy International Public Policy 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.

Applicants should:

- Submit a letter of application between 2 to no more than 4 pages in length, single spaced in 12 point font with 1 inch margins, clearly showing the candidate’s name, address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address on the first page.
- State which of the 2 placements they are applying for (applicants may be considered for more than 1 site.)
- State their background and history in the field of services and supports to people with intellectual 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 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 Hard copies of the application will not be accepted.

The application deadline for 2018 is September 15, 2018 by 5:00 P.M. EST