



2026–2027 ECE Leader Fellows Information Sheet

About the ECE Leader Fellows Program

Kids Win Missouri is excited to announce and kickoff the FIFTH year of our Early Care and Education (ECE) Leader Fellows Program. The ECE Leader Fellows Program cultivates a new cohort of community-based parent and provider advocates each year, dedicated to advancing early childhood policy and systems changes. Fellows engage in high-impact leadership development, policy advocacy training, and real-world systems change work in partnership with their local communities.

2026–2027 Program Overview

- We will select up to 30 fellows for the 2026-27 cohort. This includes one parent and one provider Fellow from each participating community.
- **Program Duration:** July 2026 – June 2027
- **Virtual Trainings:** We will host several virtual trainings on a variety of leadership, policy and advocacy topics, including early childhood policy, advocacy strategy, media and communications, community engagement, storytelling for impact, legislative policy, administrative policy and more.
- **In-Person Advocacy Opportunities:** Fellows will have the opportunity to learn by doing and put their advocacy skills to practice with multiple hands-on, in-person experiences throughout the program. Fellows will join us in Jefferson City at the Capitol for Veto Session and Child Advocacy Day where we'll meet with elected officials. Fellows will also support legislator engagement events in their community.
- **Support Structure:** Fellows are supported throughout the program by the Kids Win Missouri team and locally supported by a Community Engagement Partner organization.

Compensation

- Fellows will receive \$1,000 total, paid in two installments (December 2026 & May 2027). Fellows must have 80% attendance to receive payments. Travel and meal costs for in-person events will also be covered for fellows.

Key Program Dates

- **Recruitment Window:** May 2026
- **Fellow Selection & Notification:** By mid-June 2026
- **Program Kickoff Event:** Late July 2026
- **Veto Session (2 days, 1 night in Jefferson City):** September 2026

- **Child Advocacy Day (optional stay the night before):** March 2027

Expectations of Fellows

- Attend virtual training webinars and check-ins (7 total across the year)
- Participate in in-person advocacy events (Veto Session – September 2026; Child Advocacy Day – March 2027; in-district legislator engagement events); providers will also host tours/site visits at their programs
- Participate in or read the Friday legislative update calls during Session
- Check-in periodically with Kids Win Missouri team and community partner
- Submit brief reflections following key program milestones
- 80% attendance rate for all activities

Nomination Process

- Fellows will be selected from communities participating in the Childcare and Early Education Community Planning Project. Community Engagement Partners will identify potential fellows from each community and work with the Kids Win Missouri Team to recruit and enroll participants. Each community will be represented by one parent fellow and one provider fellow.

Interested in participating or have questions? Email Joe Gallant at jgallant@kidswinmissouri.org.