



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2025

<b>Position Title</b>	Disability Policy and Advocacy Analyst
<b>Organization</b>	Disability Rights North Carolina
<b>Location</b>	Raleigh, NC
<b>Stipend</b>	\$72,000 in the first year, \$74,000 in the second year
<b>Benefits</b>	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds and relocation funds provided by ACLS.
<b>Start Date</b>	September 2025

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[Disability Rights North Carolina](#) (DRNC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the only organization that provides free legal advocacy services to people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, throughout North Carolina. We are NC's designated Protection and Advocacy agency and recognized leader in advancing disability rights with a strong staff and supportive, dynamic work environment. DRNC is committed to building race equity into our internal and external work. DRNC is well-established and positioned for growth.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Disability Policy and Advocacy Analyst at Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) will play a pivotal role in advancing disability justice through interdisciplinary research, advocacy, and communications. This fellow will contribute to systemic reform by analyzing public systems, translating complex legal and policy issues into accessible content, and fostering collaboration across DRNC's legal, policy, and communications teams. The fellow's work will empower stakeholders and policymakers to better understand and address systemic barriers affecting people with disabilities. The position operates within DRNC's hybrid work environment, involving occasional collaboration in our office and in person engagements. Active participation in team meetings, cross-departmental strategy sessions, and public outreach initiatives is essential to the role's success.

This position is ideal for a motivated individual seeking to apply their academic expertise to real-world advocacy and systemic reform, while gaining valuable experience in public policy, legal advocacy, and nonprofit leadership. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

Under the direction of the Director of Public Policy, the Analyst will:

- Monitor and evaluate intersections between public systems and services for disabled people (e.g. child welfare, education, healthcare, and justice).
- Assess policy shifts for unintended consequences on vulnerable populations.
- Translate clinical and interdisciplinary research into evidence-based policy proposals.
- Focus on systemic issues such as institutional placement preferences and their broader impacts.
- Develop accessible advocacy materials (e.g. reports, visual data presentations, video content).
- Produce materials that clarify complex policy and legal concepts for diverse audiences.
- Work closely with DRNC's legal, policy, and communications teams to align research, advocacy, and messaging strategies.
- Support community outreach and public education efforts through clear, actionable deliverables.
- Participate in conferences, legislative meetings, and advocacy initiatives.

## Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong analytical skills to evaluate intersecting public systems and their impacts.

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You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

- Exceptional ability to translate complex legal, policy, and research information into accessible formats.
- Proficiency in creating persuasive communication materials, including visual and multimedia content, for diverse audiences.
- Excellent collaboration and communication skills for cross-departmental work and public engagement.
- Proficiency in tools for content creation (e.g. Microsoft Office Suite, data visualization software, and video production tools).

*Preferred:*

- Life experience with disability.
- Experience in analyzing public systems, social justice initiatives, or disability rights.
- Ability to communicate in ASL, Spanish, or another non-English language.
- Understanding of trauma and its prevalence among people with disabilities, valuing and using trauma-informed approaches.

## **APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System ([ofa.acls.org](https://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 12, 2025.

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