



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2025

Position Title	Research and Policy Director
Organization	Sojourner House
Location	Providence, RI
Stipend	\$72,000 in the first year, \$74,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds and relocation funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2025

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[Sojourner House](#) is a comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault agency in Rhode Island that provides residential, educational, and community-based interventions to families and individuals impacted by abuse. Our goal is to help our clients to find safety, overcome trauma, and work toward the wellbeing for themselves and their children. Our programs operate statewide, and we have offices in Providence and Woonsocket.

We offer a continuum of shelter and housing programs along with trauma-informed supportive services such as counseling, support groups, immigration advocacy, financial education, and programs for children. We are one of the few domestic violence organizations in the country to be developing affordable housing units for victims of abuse. We also work towards systems-level change by educating other service providers, young people, and community members about healthy relationships, the dynamics of abuse, and how to best support victims.

We respect each client's right to pursue their own path toward healing, according to their needs, readiness and choices. All of our programs work from the premise that violence is an unacceptable means to solving interpersonal conflict, and we encourage only non-violent methods of working out conflicts.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Sojourner House seeks a Research and Policy Director who will serve as a critical bridge between the affordable housing direct services that the agency provides and the research and policy issues in the field. There is a unique and urgent need to prioritize permanent and affordable housing options for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The direct services that Sojourner House provides—coupled with the housing development work we have undertaken to increase the inventory of affordable housing units in Rhode Island—are having a tangible impact on the lives of the families we serve. However, direct services alone are insufficient without consistent advocacy for policies that support long-term housing for survivors. The fellow's work will directly impact Sojourner House programs and our work in Rhode Island, but the intent is to also share the results more broadly within the field through the development of a digital Resource Hub. The position will be housed within the Administrative Team at Sojourner House and report to the CEO. The fellow will work closely with other administrative and program staff as well as with the organization's policy consultant. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Research best practices in survivor-centered housing programs.
- Research state and federal housing policies that affect affordable housing for survivors and identify policy reforms to enhance permanent housing solutions.
- Employ qualitative methods (interviews, open-ended questionnaires, observation, etc.) to gather information from survivors, Sojourner House staff, and other key informants to improve understanding of the subjective experiences and meanings survivors ascribe to their lives.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

- Create compelling narratives that convey the real-world impact of policies and demonstrate how housing stability transforms the lives of survivors.
- Analyze data collected by Sojourner House programs and other stakeholder organizations to support policy reforms.
- Contribute to the development of an advocacy strategic plan by participating as a staff member of the Policy Subcommittee of the Sojourner House Board of Directors.
- Curate a digital Resource Hub of toolkits, case studies, and policy briefs that would be made available to organizations across the country.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Experience or interest in working in or with nonprofits, governments, or community organizations.
- Able to effectively communicate with professionals, clients, and the community, good interpersonal skills, ability to form new relationships and willingness to represent Sojourner House to new contacts.
- Discretion, sensitivity in handling confidential information.
- Alignment with Sojourner House values such as self-empowerment and the strengths inherent in diversity of cultures, lifestyles, and ideas.
- Commitment to gender equality and improving the lives of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Preferred:

- Skills in research, policy analysis, data analysis, digital humanities, storytelling, and/or planning.
- Experience or interest in working in or with nonprofits, governments, or community organizations.
- Familiarity with domestic violence, sexual assault, and gender/sexuality issues (training will be provided).
- Familiarity with trauma-informed and harm reduction practices (training will be provided).

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)
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 12, 2025.

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