



## NQF Quality Policy Fellowship

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### Overview

NQF is pleased to launch the NQF Quality Policy Fellowship. This program will provide the opportunity for two individuals from NQF member organizations to gain exposure to leaders, cutting edge work, and mentorship in healthcare quality improvement policy. Healthcare quality policy includes quality measurement, value-based care, quality improvement, research, and payment policy. This non-residential Fellowship will provide rising leaders with the content, immersion, and mentorship to write 1-2 publications, to contribute substantially to an NQF product, and to be in the mix at the highest levels of leadership in quality improvement and policy. It will provide member organizations with a unique opportunity to grow a promising employee's exposure to quality policy, or to reward a high achiever. And it will enhance the field through the contributions made by the NQF Quality Policy Fellows.

### Program Outline

- One-year, non-residential Fellowship
- Competitive selection from among NQF's multi-stakeholder membership
- Fellows operate out of the NQF CEO's office
- Two trips to Washington, DC, to participate in NQF activities and meet with NQF leadership
- Candidates serve as individuals, in their own capacity, and not on behalf of the NQF member organization which supported their application

### Activities and Deliverables

- Observer (non-voting) status on at least 1 Standing Committee or Action Team of interest to the Fellow
- Structured exposure to policy-makers at the national level
- Shadow NQF staff and leadership
- 1-2 publications expected
- Engagement in a mentored research/advocacy project that advances NQF and quality policy

### Benefits for the Individual

- Immersion in the quality improvement and policy arena at the highest level
- Direct work and interaction with the NQF CEO and leadership

- Access to content and support for publications to advance career
- Reasonable travel expenses for two trips of up to 3 days each to Washington, DC, to participate in NQF activities (*e.g.*, Annual Conference, Standing Committee or Action Team meetings, Hill briefings) based on organizational and Fellow interests
  - Reasonable travel expenses include Economy airfare, coach train fare, non-premium ground transportation, three nights at a hotel selected by NQF, and three meals a day and incidentals at the Federal reimbursement rates – contact NQF for details
- One-time stipend equal to \$5,000 (but no other benefits)

## Benefits for the Member Organization

- Member grows an employee's exposure to quality policy, or rewards a high achiever
- Gains insights from the Fellow as a liaison back to the organization
- Demonstrates the organization's commitment to quality through Fellowship announcements

## Eligibility

- Applicants must be an employee of an NQF member organization, or play a leadership role with a member organization and have that organization's strong endorsement
- Applicants are expected to have completed the academic credentialing for their field, if applicable, but may be early- to mid-career
- Applicants must demonstrate commitment to quality policy in their work, studies, or non-professional activities
- Applicants must be able to accommodate that NQF cannot provide for expenses beyond reasonable travel expenses for two trips to Washington, DC, to participate in NQF activities
- Preference will be given in 2020 to at least one candidate with a background in social determinants of health (SDOH) or health equity

## Application Process

- There will be an annual application process to recruit up to two Fellows per year
- NQF will provide an online application form, to which applicants will append a writing sample and a letter of support from the NQF member organization with which the candidate is affiliated
- The application process will:
  - give individuals the opportunity to make a strong case for
    - how their background and experience position them to succeed in the various components of the program
    - how they anticipate their fellowship will contribute to the field
    - how they would benefit from the experience
  - give organizations the opportunity to make a case for
    - how they would benefit from providing this exposure to their nominee

- how they would support their nominee, including clearing time on their nominee's schedule to ensure meaningful participation and ability to work on deliverables as part of their job
- The application process will also emphasize that for 2020 one candidate will be chosen for expertise/experience in SDOH or health equity

## Selection Process

- Candidates will be selected by the NQF CEO, following initial review by NQF Membership Staff
- Nominees will be evaluated based on
  - The strength of their application in demonstrating the objectives above
  - At least one candidate having a background in SDOH or health equity

## Timeline

- Applications will open on August 29 with an October 15 deadline
- Results will be shared by November 22
- Two fellows will start on January 15, 2020