

Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Health Equity Fellowship

Program Goals

- Train individuals to address critical gaps in pediatric health equity research, including studies of social determinants of health, health related social needs, quality, outcomes and cost effectiveness of care.
- Support completion and publication of studies designed to improve the capacity of Boston Children's Hospital, and the U.S. health care system more generally, and to meet the needs of children and families, with a particular emphasis on those from underrepresented, underserved and vulnerable populations in the U.S. with possible project topics to include (but not limited to):
 - improving systems for collection of patient demographic data (including race, ethnicity, and language)
 - addressing health care inequities, the impact of social determinants of health, and health related social needs
 - developing and testing innovative approaches to patient navigation, health literacy, or linguistically diverse patients and families that would improve pediatric health care outcomes; and
 - increasing the diversity of participants in pediatric research.
- Provide training in research methods and performance improvement methods, including those of implementation science, to optimize care delivery, patient experience, and patient outcomes in real world settings.

Research Site – Boston Children's Hospital, in conjunction with the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship

Learning Opportunities – Two-year program includes intensive mentorship; MPH in Clinical Effectiveness at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; structured seminars weekly with the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship Program; and health equity research seminars/working groups, lectures, leadership forum and/or symposium in health equity policy research, and career development, at Boston Children's. The fellow will have assigned faculty mentors from both the Boston Children's Hospital Office of Health Equity and Inclusion and the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship. The fellow is expected to devote a minimum of 80% effort to research with up to 20% clinical time.

Deliverables – The fellow is expected to submit an abstract for presentation at either the Boston Children's Hospital Dr. M. Judah Folkman Research Day or at a national conference. The fellow is expected to submit at least one (likely 2-3) manuscripts by the end of the 2-year fellowship. All funded project deliverables must contain the following acknowledgement, "Funding for the project was obtained from Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Health Equity Fellowship."

Faculty Leaders – Kathleen Walsh MD, MS and Valerie L. Ward, MD, MPH (Co-Directors), for the Boston Children's Hospital Pediatric Health Equity Fellowship.

Funding – The support of Fellow will be shared between the Fellow's clinical department (which will provide stipend/salary) and the Boston Children's Hospital Office of Health Equity and Inclusion/Department of Health Affairs (which will provide tuition for the MPH degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health of up to \$60,000 over the two years; the Fellow's clinical department is responsible for the remainder of the tuition). The Office of Health Equity and Inclusion / Department of Health Affairs will also pay an additional \$1,000 in training related expenses to be approved by the Office of Health Equity and Inclusion in advance.

Eligibility – Fellows with faculty positions that begin at Boston Children's in July 2027 and all current Boston Children's faculty are eligible to apply. The Pediatric Health Equity Fellowship is open to applicants of all backgrounds. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to their race, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or veteran status, disability or any other classification protected by law.

Information and Application – Please see <http://www.childrenshospital.org/pedresearch/> for application details. Please contact Valerie L. Ward MD, MPH Senior Vice President, Pediatric Health Equity Strategies, and Chief Health Equity Officer, Boston Children's Hospital at healthequity@childrens.harvard.edu or Kathleen Walsh MD, MS, Program Director, Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship Program with questions at HSRFellowship@childrens.harvard.edu.

Deadline – September 30, 2026 for July 1, 2027 entry.



Boston Children's Hospital
Office of Health Equity
and Inclusion



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

