



2025 - 2027 ASTS Health Policy Fellowship (HPF) Proposal Legislative & Regulatory Committee

Program Goals and Objectives

Goal

The ASTS Legislative and Regulatory Committee proposes an updated Health Policy Fellowship program to build a diverse brain trust of ASTS members who will become facile in the legislative and regulatory aspects of the transplant landscape and gain experience conducting mentored transplant related health policy research to inform ASTS advocacy positions. Our goal is to construct a pathway tailored to build skills and knowledge for early to mid-career level transplant professionals who will, in turn, advocate for, develop transplant related health policy and health policy research expertise, and add value to the Society while advancing their careers. **For the 2025 - 2027 Health Policy Fellowship, the ASTS Council has directed the Health Policy Fellow to conduct a mentored transplant research project aimed at reducing organ non-use.**

Objectives:

Fellows will be expected to dedicate their time and effort on the following program objectives:

- Develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively support ASTS advocacy initiatives and activities by:
 - Understanding the charge and strategic priorities of the ASTS Legislative and Regulatory Committee;
 - Becoming acquainted with the advocacy process by engaging with ASTS advocacy activities (participating in Leg/Reg Committee meetings, attending ASTS Advocacy Days, assisting with drafting ASTS health policy statements and materials);
 - Gaining experience with ASTS process for public comment on OPTN policies; and
 - Successfully developing and completing a mentored transplant health policy research project as directed by the ASTS Council and publishing the research results.
- Establish contacts with community thought leaders and stakeholders to better understand the complex transplant ecosystem.
- The Health Policy Fellow Mentorship team will consist of the Chair of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee and an ASTS Executive Committee designated research mentor to work with the Health Policy Fellow on a selected topic of importance to ASTS advocacy.
- Serve as a non-voting committee liaison member to the ASTS Legislative and Regulatory Committee for a 2-year term.

Program Cycle and Characteristics

Characteristics:

- The Health Policy Fellowship awardee will be expected to commit to a 2-year program.
- After the Legislative and Regulatory Committee has deemed that all program requirements are met, the fellow will receive a certificate of completion and will have had the valuable



experience of serving on the Committee, engaging in ASTS advocacy activities and conducting and publishing transplant related health policy research.

Program Resources:

- ASTS Legislative and Regulatory Committee Chair will serve as the Fellow's mentor, along with a mentor designated by the ASTS Council. The ASTS Council will fund the program to include a financial commitment for any research support for database access and biostatistics support for data analysis, and any other research needs.

Program Components:

The Health Policy Fellow will become acquainted with community thought leaders while learning more about the advocacy process as it relates to the transplant ecosystem. Program components need not be compartmentalized but may occur longitudinally over the duration of the fellowship and include the following.

- *Leg/Reg Committee* – Mentor: Leg/Reg Committee Chair. (Time investment: 1.5 total days over 2-year term)
 - The Fellow will attend a minimum of 3 committee calls per year or a total of 6 during the program
- *Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)* (Time investment: .5 day total days over a 2-year term)
 - The Fellow will be introduced to the structure and function of the OPTN and will arrange and attend 3 OPTN committee meetings and 3 public OPTN Board meetings virtually for a total of 6 OPTN meetings over two years. The fellow can select which OPTN committee meetings they choose to attend.
- *In-Person Advocacy Day* (Time investment: three days over a two-year term)
 - The Fellow will attend two in-person Advocacy Days to create and build upon relationships with lawmakers and advocate for the transplant specialty and patients.

Program Didactics/Deliverables:

Research/Academic Product.

- Each fellowship cycle, the ASTS Executive Committee will identify the Health Policy Fellow research question to be addressed. The Chair of the Leg/Reg Committee will oversee the fulfillment of the Health Policy Fellow requirements including the timely completion of the Health Policy research project.
 - The final research project must be approved by the ASTS Executive Committee or Council before proceeding.
 - The Fellow will be required to provide progress reports every 6 months to the Legislative & Regulatory Committee Chair and ASTS Executive Committee or Council. The progress



report will consist of a one-page summary of project aims, methods, progress to date, challenges encountered and any guidance needed.

- The Fellow will receive feedback by presenting Interim (1 year) and Final (2 year) results of the research virtually using a PowerPoint presentation format to the EC and/or Council at a time point to be determined at the beginning of each year.
- The project is designed to culminate in a publication (by the end of the fellowship) that will inform transplant health policy.

Program Outcomes: The Fellow will complete a program evaluation and research/academic product by at the end of their term.

Pre-Award Process: Application & Selection Process

Selection Process

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants should be an ASTS member who is at least 2-8 years out of fellowship or at the mid-point of their career. We ask candidates to describe any previous healthcare policy or advocacy experience in their personal statement and their motivation to pursue this fellowship training.

Application Submission Requirements:

- Candidate applications will require successful completion of all of the following:
 - A CV
 - a personal statement (1000 words maximum) describing their interest in the program, their interest in advocacy and any relationships with policymakers, and how this will advance their career and the Society
 - A letter of recommendation from the applicant's Department Chair noting the applicant will have academic time to commit to pursuing a mentored transplant related health policy research project and also have protected time over 2 years to complete the didactic and experiential components of the program.

Selection Process:

- The selection committee will consist of four (4) reviewers per application: the Chair, Vice Chair, and Vice Chair Elect of the Legislative & Regulatory Committee and the Fellowship mentor
- Reviewers must declare any conflicts of interest prior to the committee conference to rank applications.
- When reviewing applications, the selection committee will score for:
 - level of engagement in promoting and affecting change in the transplant regulatory and legislative environment,
 - quality of personal statement,
 - quality of CV,
 - contributions to the profession, especially beyond routine expectations,
 - plans to continue contributing to the profession in the future.



- The review process will take approximately two weeks. Committee leadership will finalize the rank list and the Chair will approve and recommend the final 2-3 nominees to ASTS Executive Committee or Council for final approval. A brief summary of the strengths and potential challenges of each nominee should be provided.

Post Award Process

Mentorship Structure

- The Leg/Reg Committee Chair will serve as the primary program mentor to ensure program elements are in place for a timely completion.
- The ASTS Council will assign a Research Mentor to guide the fellow in the conduct of the research project.
- The Fellow should arrange to meet with the ASTS Lobbyist and Legislative Counsel to discuss the ASTS advocacy context for conducting the EC selected health policy research project.
- The Fellow will meet with the Research mentor at the outset of the fellowship (August) to establish a cadence for mentor meetings. The intent of the initial and subsequent meetings is to outline the hypothesis, research questions, methodology and approach, identify training, tools and resources needed and to review and analyze research results.
- The Fellow will provide written progress reports to the Legislative & Regulatory Committee every 6-months and meet with the Chair and mentor as needed.
- The Fellow will present an Interim (1 year) and Final (2 year) Report using a PowerPoint presentation format to the EC and/or Council.

Program Completion & Evaluation:

- The Fellow will receive a certificate once the fellow has met all program requirements as determined by the ASTS Legislative & Regulatory Committee Chair and its members.
- The Fellow will complete a program assessment.
- The Legislative and Regulatory Committee Chair and Vice Chair will review the Fellow's evaluation and consult with the Legislative and Regulatory Committee and advisors to implement any program improvements.