

G. Lawrence Atkins LTSS Policy and Research Fellowship Program ("Atkins Fellowship")

The G. Lawrence Atkins LTSS Policy and Research Fellowship (hereafter "Atkins Fellowship") with [Long-Term Quality Alliance \(LTQA\)](#) and the affiliated [National MLTSS Health Plan Association](#) is a funded fellowship opportunity for graduate students with a demonstrated interest in Medicare, Medicaid and/or long-term services and supports (LTSS) to gain experience in advancing LTSS policy through research, policy analysis, and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders.

This fellowship is named for G. Lawrence Atkins, PhD, who previously served as the Executive Director of LTQA and the MLTSS Association. Dr. Atkins is a veteran of more than 30 years of health and social policy analysis, policy development, and legislative representation at the local, state, and federal levels, including as Staff Director of the federal Commission on Long-Term Care.

The Organizations:

LTQA is a 501(c)3 membership organization aimed at improving outcomes and quality of life for persons with functional limitations, and their families. LTQA advances person- and family-centered, integrated long-term services and supports (LTSS) through research, education, and advocacy.

The affiliated National MLTSS Health Plan Association is a trade association of managed care organizations that have Medicaid managed care contracts with one or more states and take risk for LTSS provided under Medicaid ("managed LTSS", or MLTSS).

Our Aims:

The Atkins Fellowship seeks to train the next generation of LTSS policy and research leaders. The cornerstones of the fellowship include a grounding in the following skills with a focus on LTSS policy issues and research questions:

- **Research and Analysis:** Fellows will contribute to ongoing research projects and will have the opportunity to explore their own research questions related to LTSS.
- **Policy Advocacy and Engagement:** Fellows will contribute to policy advocacy, engagement, and education efforts of the organizations.
- **Knowledge Translation and Communications:** Fellows will contribute to policy and communications products (including policy briefs, fact sheets, presentations, and website/social media copy) that effectively communicate research findings and policy implications to various audiences.

To meet our aims, we support fellows' growth during the fellowship and beyond with the following:

- **Mentorship:** Fellows will be assigned a Board member as a mentor that they will have 2-3 meetings with over the course of the fellowship to discuss their goals for the fellowship and career goals more generally. Fellows will also have the opportunity to set up as many as 4

additional informational interviews with other Board members and with Dr. Atkins based on interest.

- **LTSS Reading Discussions:** Fellows will participate in monthly LTSS reading discussions with staff and LTQA member organizations. This is an opportunity for fellows (as well as staff and members) to stay up to date on the latest LTSS research and publications.
- **LTQA Associate Membership:** Upon completion of the fellowship, fellows will become Associate Members of LTQA. Associate Members can attend LTQA member meetings and events.

The Role:

Fellows will support LTQA's ongoing research projects and contribute to reports, policy briefs, blogs, webinars, and other outputs from this research. This could include work on:

- Advancing a national strategic framework for aging and state Multisector Plans on Aging
- Tracking innovations and data collection on LTSS delivery and financing
- Solutioning for home- and community-based services (HCBS) workforce issues
- Exploring opportunities within the intersection of venture capital and private equity with LTSS

This position also supports the research and policy advocacy efforts of the affiliated MLTSS Association, such as:

- Developing legislative and operational proposals to advance integrated care models for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as to strengthen the direct care workforce
 - For 2024, additional priority areas may include advancing value-based care in LTSS, simplifying consumer options for integrated care, and elevating and understanding the needs of MLTSS enrollees (e.g., health-related social needs, consumer preferences for technology solutions)
- Educating CMS, Congress, and independent advisory groups such as MACPAC on MLTSS

Specific projects can be further defined to align with the fellow's interests. Past projects include: a literature review of HCBS for diverse populations; an analysis of Medicare Advantage plans' supplemental benefit offerings; a state policy tracker on states' managed care contract policies; and drafting of policy memos, Op-Eds, and other educational materials. Interns will also join regular operational and project meetings and provide research and strategic support as needed.

The Structure:

Interested students can apply to a full-time 10-week summer fellowship or a part-time fellowship during the academic year of at least 10 hours per week. We are flexible on start and end dates and will work with successful candidates to create a fellowship schedule that works for them. Fellows will receive a stipend, commensurate with hours and length of fellowship.

How to Apply:

Submit a resume and cover letter to fellowship@ltqa.org.