



**SAMUEL CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
CONNECTEDNESS**

**Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness  
Fellowship Program**

Partner Organization: The Foundation for Social Connection

Project Title: Landscape Assessment & Mapping Indices for Social  
Connection

## SCSC Fellowship 2023:

### Project Proposal

**Partner Organization:** The Foundation for Social Connection

Founded in 2020, the Foundation for Social Connection (F4SC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on addressing the crisis of connection in the United States. F4SC raises public awareness through education, promotes innovative research, and spurs the development and implementation of evidence-based models that address social isolation, loneliness, and social connection (SILC). Since its inception, the Foundation has been a leader in these efforts, with a vision for all Americans to have the opportunities and support necessary to be socially engaged in society. The Foundation convened a Scientific Advisory Council made up of the nation's leading experts to advise on a range of federal and NGO initiatives related to social connection, including the development of the SOCIAL Framework. Through the F4SC Innovation Hub, the foundation facilitates the development, piloting, and evaluation of our partners' evidence-based solutions to address social connection strategies for broad-based applications. They also work closely with an affiliate organization, the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness, to engage diverse stakeholders and advocate for policy changes that combat the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness.

Learn more at: <https://www.social-connection.org/>

**Location of the Project:** Remote

This is a remote position, and the Foundation for Social Connection has a strong remote workforce. While not required if the Fellow is in Washington, D.C. they will have the opportunity to work from the office and assist with in-person / team activities throughout their Fellowship. ADA compliant office building.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Section 1: Description of the Project**

Although the Social Connection field of research is relatively new, various stakeholders have developed key measurement tools, indices, and frameworks to help stakeholders effectively address social isolation, loneliness, and connection (SILC) in a coordinated approach. Without these standardized measurement tools, we face major barriers to designing and evaluating interventions for high impact. In response, this Fellow will a) review the global ecosystem of measurement tools related to social connection, b) map tools and frameworks via a toolkit for broad dissemination and application, and c) potentially convene key measurement actors in a conversation to align on current and future state. Through this project, the Fellow will gain hands-on experience meeting with our partners (national and global) to discuss their current efforts. They will also have access to discuss these topics with our world renowned Scientific Advisory Council, to gain more insight into the evidence base.

### **Section 2: Goals of the Project**

The goal of this project is to provide an analysis of available measurement tools and research gaps to effectively capture our progress and set quality standards.

- Measurement Analysis
  - The Fellow will explore what measurement tools and frameworks currently exist for social connection (including related concepts of social isolation and loneliness). Compiling, categorizing, and mapping these assets will be critical for current and future researchers in this field, practitioners, policy makers, and more. Identifying gaps will also be key to inform future investments.
- Landscape assessment
  - The Fellow will create a final product that outlines the measurement tools and key stakeholders in effort to identify opportunities to further advance the field of social connection and impacts across level of influence (Individual -> Interpersonal -> Community -> Organization -> Society).

### **Section 3: Guiding Questions**

1. How can we promote intersectional, equitable solutions to help individuals and communities connect and flourish?
2. How can we translate evidence into actionable, effective tools and solutions?
3. What is the current landscape of the various measurements and indices used by stakeholders? When or in what instances are these measurement tools used? Who authored them?
4. What measurement gaps are social connection researchers coming across in their work?
5. What other information/tools would be useful for social connection researchers to further this work?
6. How can we visually present this analysis to support researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in a digestible way?

### **Section 4: Key Deliverables**

- 1 blog post (500 – 1,000 word), posted to SCSC's & F4SC's websites.
  - All new team members are expected to write a blog post (500-1,000 words) on a topic of their choosing that relates to social isolation, loneliness, and/or social connection. The piece will be posted to our affiliate organization's blog (see [here](#)) as well as on the SCSC website.
- A Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) in support of the Final Output
  - The Fellow's CEI will be a convention of key SILC stakeholders to discuss their measurement and evaluation efforts and will present important advancements in the research.
- A Final Output – Stakeholder Map & Written Accompaniment
  - The Fellow will create a visual representation of the landscape of social connectedness (e.g stakeholder map, map of indices, slide deck) and a write up of the key findings & recommendations
  - These will both be posted on the SCSC & F4SC's websites for public viewing/downloads and disseminated to the F4SC network and Scientific Advisory Council.

- A Final Presentation with the Social Connectedness Fellowship Cohort

### Applicant Information:

#### About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers

The Fellowship empowers young people, recent graduates, and community leaders to engage in meaningful research and community action. At the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness our mission is to build connectedness within and between communities through partnerships, research, programming, learning initiatives, and advocacy. Belonging is central to our work, and the Fellowship offers the opportunity to apply the lens of 'Belonging' to intersectional issues, writing, and problem solving.

**This is a paid full-time opportunity from May 8 – August 28, 2023 [16 weeks]. The Social Connectedness Fellowship is a research and community action summer program focused on understanding & integrating social connectedness.**

SCSC Offers:

- Competitive wages
- Work with national & international community partners
- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Meaningful work where your research has impact

### **Equity Statement:**

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants to apply even if they do not meet all the criteria. We believe all candidates have something to bring to the organization and the role. If you have skills outside the job description that you think can benefit the project, let us know in your cover letter. We encourage all equity-seeking groups such as immigrants, Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, and people with disabilities to apply. Please let us know if you need any accommodation throughout the application and interview process and we will be happy to support you.

### **Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant:**

#### **Required Qualifications:**

Applicants must have or be currently enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program.

#### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Undergraduate or Graduate students in business, public policy, public health, healthcare management, social work, or similar social sciences
- Interest in working on health policy and strategy projects, especially those focused on vulnerable populations
- Strong research and writing skills
- Demonstrated ability to independently manage multiple ongoing projects
- Detail oriented
- Comfortable speaking in public
- Excellent organization and communication skills