1. Name of Organization and Department
County of Los Angeles
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
Office of Child Protection

2. Senior Administrator Name and Title
Judge Michael Nash (Ret.)
Executive Director, Office of Child Protection

3. Fellowship Assignment
The Office of Child Protection (OCP) was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and its Chief Executive Officer in 2015 to improve communication, coordination, and accountability across agencies involved in the child protection network so that vulnerable children have a better chance of growing up safer and healthier. The OCP umbrella also includes the Education Coordinating Council, whose goal is to raise the educational achievement of foster and probation youth, and the Philanthropy Liaison’s Office, which is designed to help leverage public/private funding for projects important to both Philanthropy and the County.

Los Angeles County Mission Statement on Child Safety

The vehicle that will be used to move the County towards achieving our mission is the OCP’s Countywide Child Protection Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan). The Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for the work of the system and OCP. The Fellow would assist the OCP in accomplishing the Strategic Plan objectives which are divided among the focus areas of: Prevention, Safety, Permanency, Well-Being, as well as issues that cut-across all focus areas. The Fellow may also be involved with resolving other emerging issues affecting child welfare.
The OCP is a lean, newly formed office. Being located in the OCP would provide the Fellow with the opportunity to measurably improve child safety in Los Angeles County through coordinating and aligning the work of multiple departments, entities, advocates, and community partners who touch the lives of children; expanding continuous improvement efforts; increasing the amount and type of data electronically shared; eliminating barriers to the delivery of optimal services; and promoting cross-training efforts. The Fellow will gain first-hand knowledge of the work necessary to build strong partnerships, increase community involvement, and strengthen the various child safety and family supports within the County.

4. Overall Job Description

Depending on the Fellow’s job skills, interests, and the identified needs of the Office, the Fellow may assist in areas such as:

- Conducting research to identify and evaluate innovative practices that improve child protection outcomes that could be replicated within Los Angeles County
- Identifying and evaluating new/pending legislation that may impact system involved youth (i.e., foster or probation)
- Detailing workflow processes to identify barriers or workload burdens, and recommending possible policy or legislative changes as a result
- Mapping the continuum of care and identifying gaps to be addressed
- Tracking multi-departmental outcome measures, determining the validity of the measures being used, and designing/updating dashboards to share the results that will be used to drive policy
- Staffing work groups created to solve specific issues dealing with child welfare
- Creating reports and/or presentations to communicate project status or issues

5. Skills, Knowledge, & Abilities

This is a unique opportunity to work within the County to help create new structures to support and coordinate efforts across multiple departments and agencies to improve child safety and minimize, if not eliminate, the risk of further harm occurring once a child is known to the system. The Fellow will be able to experience the political, cultural and economic realities that exist within the public arena and how they can influence policy; have the opportunity to see policy move from concept to implementation; and gain practical experience in areas such as project management and continuous improvement. The Fellow will also be able to have the added benefit of observing how public and philanthropic entities can work together to leverage resources to effect greater impacts to the system.

6. Beneficial Outcomes

The Fellow will benefit from the hands-on experience of helping to create Countywide policy changes and observe the actual implementation of the policies. The immediate benefit to the County would be the work done by the Fellow with the long-term benefit being an understanding of the issues surrounding the child welfare system and the efforts necessary to create meaningful change.