



**Eleanor Crook  
Foundation**

---

**Associate Director for Research  
January, 2022**

## **About the Eleanor Crook Foundation**

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. The Foundation invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis.

ECF is an active investor, and their team of experts prides itself on being accountable and informed. They ask tough questions and go beyond grantmaking to serve the global nutrition sector as a key convener, advocate, and thought leader. In 2017, the Foundation pledged \$100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition. In addition, their growing endowment allows them to keep fighting to end malnutrition for as long as it takes. Today, many of ECF's grants are funded by Eleanor personally while others are fulfilled by the Foundation's endowment.

## **Associate Director of Research**

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) seeks an Associate Director (AD) of Research to develop and oversee a robust portfolio of global nutrition research on behalf of the Foundation. Reporting to the Policy Director and working alongside a dynamic team of policy, advocacy, and nutrition technical experts, the AD will be responsible for overseeing a multi-million-dollar portfolio of global malnutrition research grants to some of the top research institutions in global health and nutrition. The Associate Director will ensure clear goals for all ECF research grants and will closely monitor and contribute to progress of ongoing investments. In doing so, the AD will be required to stay abreast of the latest research and evidence regarding global malnutrition (especially in ECF priority areas) and explore and anticipate emerging issues across ECF's 2020-2025 Strategy and organizational goals.

ECF's research portfolio is primarily invested in scaling high impact nutrition interventions through health systems (see an articulation of our focus areas [here](#)). The portfolio has a long-standing, though not exclusive, focus on East Africa. The AD will work with ECF research grantees and applicants to develop proposals across ECF priority areas. They will routinely review the latest evidence in global malnutrition, making recommendations for how ECF can apply learnings to its portfolio and organizational priorities (including advocacy and communications efforts). They will also be asked to explore (with the potential to invest in) the most promising, over-the-horizon investments in research on the Foundation's areas of interest. The AD will be expected to identify and support catalytic co-investments with other funders, investing smart bursts of money that will drive others to jump in at scale.

The AD will work alongside the Senior Program Officer for Research and report directly to ECF's Policy Director. They will be expected to work seamlessly with colleagues across the Foundation. A successful candidate will be creative, curious, and highly action oriented. They will pride themselves on rigor and attention to detail but be willing and able to move quickly and nimbly. They will have significant experience and expertise in global health and development research, including, ideally, experience working in high-burden contexts. The AD must be diplomatic, productive, self-motivated, and strategic. They should be a confident communicator, a skilled representative, and grounded in evidence and the foundational principles of implementation research. The ideal applicant will be based in, or willing to relocate to, Washington, DC.

A “sick-of-business-as-usual” attitude is required, and applicants should have an unrelenting desire to dream up big ideas with the potential to have transformative impact on global malnutrition. The incumbent will be asked to jump in on day one to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities in global nutrition. The person who assumes this role will be asked to build upon existing efforts to maximize and grow ECF’s impact on global malnutrition.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Cultivate new and existing relationships with ECF research grantees and funding partners, in close coordination with the Senior Program Officer for Research and Policy Director.
- Proactively identify new investment opportunities and design new programs and grants. This work will include a strong focus on how ECF investments can be catalytic in spurring others to act and operate at scale.
- Advise grantees during the application process and conduct due diligence in compliance with ECF’s policies and procedures.
- Working with the Senior Program Officer, oversee monitoring and evaluation efforts for research grants.
- Foster ECF’s growing grantee coalition, including identifying synergies across grants and creating and managing strategic fora for cross-grantee collaboration and learnings.
- Maintain leading knowledge of ECF’s nutrition advocacy, research, and implementation grants and findings.
- Provide expert advice to ECF’s team and community of partners.
- Support the Policy Director to develop and implement a robust policy leadership agenda that aligns with the best available evidence on key topics.
- Help bring the global malnutrition community to the next level by providing high-level thought leadership, encouraging and contributing to bold, outside-the-box thinking.
- Synthesize new findings, including from ECF investments, to provide contextualized analysis for ECF staff and partners.
- Skillfully represent the Eleanor Crook Foundation at external convenings and events. In doing so, the AD will be expected to ask hard questions, provide thoughtful answers, and remain restless in the fight against malnutrition.
- Help establish and maintain strong working relationships with a wide range of potential partners to advance and nuance ECF’s strategic objectives and support our grantee efforts.

### **Required Qualifications, Skills & Attributes:**

- Minimum of 8-10 years’ experience in global health. Significant, demonstrated experience working on implementation research, particularly in global malnutrition.
- At least 2 years of experience with grant compliance, reporting, and financial management.
- Proven experience working across multi-stakeholder processes.
- Demonstrated skill delivering constructive feedback and representing organizations externally.
- An ability to step back from current practice and imagine future frontiers in research.
- Confidence to envision change – even when it stands against the status quo – and to inspire action in others.
- High level of interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity to effectively interact with all levels of US and internationally based partners and staff.

- Ability to clearly and consistently communicate ECF priorities and expectations.
- Ability to hold partners to high standards of excellence while maintaining positive relationships.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Capacity to work both independently and as a member of a team.
- Aptitude at managing competing priorities, holding partners accountable for ambitious deadlines, and building coalitions of the willing in the process.
- Extremely strong analytical and creative thinking abilities. Prior experience with epi/stats, financing, and/or cost-effectiveness analysis is a plus.
- A can-do, productive attitude. A self-starter who will come to the table with creative ideas and be open to collaborative brainstorming. A strong interest in global nutrition is a must!
- Advanced degree in a relevant field (e.g., Public Health, Nutrition, Public Policy, etc.).

**Desired Skills & Attributes:**

- Attentive to detail
- Strategic and creative thinker
- Strong communicator
- Adept logistician
- Excellent writer
- Composed negotiator
- Socially perceptive
- Self-Starter
- Intellectually curious
- Highly collaborative
- Risk manager
- Compassionate

The Eleanor Crook Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and hires without consideration of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or disability. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply.

Applications and nominations should be directed to [cdisston@disstonsearch.com](mailto:cdisston@disstonsearch.com). Applications should include a resume and cover letter.