

Informational

Program Overview: The Northern California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program is a graduate and post-graduate level, interdisciplinary leadership and service training program federally funded through HRSA's Maternal Child Health Bureau. The purpose of the Northern CA LEND is to train the next generation of *practitioners and family members* in current best practices for diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD) while emphasizing collaborative interdisciplinary, family-centered, and culturally competent care. In order to improve the health and treatment of children with ASD/DD and their families, the next generation of practitioners, family members, and advocates also needs leadership skills, to increase capacity of the care delivery systems and develop new models of care provision, and they must have an unwavering commitment to high quality, evidence-based services.

Goals: The Northern CA LEND training program will provide interdisciplinary training on evidence-based screening, diagnosis, and treatment of the complex needs of those with ASD/DD, so as to increase the number of clinicians and families with (1) knowledge and skills in providing empirically supported diagnosis, health, and treatment practices and (2) training in leadership skills so that they can lead others in their communities to adopt these practices.

This program will develop visionary leaders in communities who are: experts in their disciplines and in interdisciplinary knowledge of ASD/DD, designers of new models of care provision, committed to high quality, evidence-based services, able to communicate well with families and providers from a wide range of cultural and economic backgrounds, and committed to advocacy and leadership in their communities.

The LEND training program is designed to increase the number of clinicians, community leaders, self-advocates and family members who provide empirically supported clinical care and/or lead others in their communities to adopt these practices

Training Opportunities: Resources and faculty at the UC Davis MIND Institute, in partnership with affiliated programs at California State University of Sacramento (CSUS), will provide LEND training. Training will occur within (1) didactic seminars, (2) interdisciplinary case discussion, and clinical settings at the MIND Institute or CSUS clinics, and in (3) community settings; (4) additionally, long-term trainees will participate in currently established research with a faculty mentor.

- *Seminars:* Interdisciplinary graduate-level didactics will emphasize state-of-the-art information about services for ASD/DD. Trainees will participate in seminars either online or in-person. Seminars will be interactive and led by experts in the field. Specific topics will relate to ASD/DD, leadership, interdisciplinary care, systems of care, public health perspectives of care, cultural competency, family centered care, communication skills, research and use of technology in healthcare service.
- *Interdisciplinary Clinical Experiences: Diagnostic Evaluations and Evidence Based treatment:* Trainees will participate in interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluations and discussion facilitated and supervised by LEND faculty. They will also participate in

delivery of evidence-based treatments with the faculty. Clinical settings provide opportunities to practice interdisciplinary skills with an interdisciplinary team, leadership skills and family centered care, as well as cultural competency with a diverse population of children with or at risk for ASD/DD and their families.

- *Community Placement:* Trainees will have experiences in sites that serve ASD/DD that focus on early childhood, school-aged children, and/or adolescents. All community training sites provide interdisciplinary service and family-centered care.
- *Research:* All advanced and long term trainees will have some research experience. Long-term trainees will conduct research in coordination with faculty members (see below).

Training Tracks:

- *Long-term trainees:* Individuals selected as long-term LEND trainees will have graduate level or post-graduate level education in school psychology, social work, child psychiatry, pediatrics, speech/language pathology, physical therapy, education including special education, genetics, public health, or nursing and have either an academic or experiential background in ASD/DD. Long-term trainees will also include family members and self-advocates with an interest in ASD/DD. Long-term trainees will receive 301 + yearly hours. Long-term trainees will receive 40 hours of active research experience in an ongoing project that aligns with their training goals. They will prepare posters or papers from findings of the project to present in conferences based on this experience. .

Full-time trainees. As many as nine fulltime graduate/post-doctoral clinical trainees who are in their final year of training can be supported via financial stipends to participate 40 hours per week for the training year. They will be mentored by LEND Faculty.

- *Medium-term & Advanced trainees:* Medium - term trainees (participating in 40-149 hours of training) and advanced trainees (participating in 150-299 hours of training) will take part in some of the LEND curriculum activities, will be involved in interdisciplinary clinical activities, and may also participate in some of the LEND community training activities. Candidates for these roles will meet the same criteria as LEND long term trainees.
- *Individual Training Plan:* An individual training plan will be developed by each trainee and LEND supervisor to define their training objectives and to determine which curriculum and clinical activities will best meet the training objectives of the candidate.

Appointment, Stipend, and Benefits: *Full-time Trainees:* Financial stipends are available to support up to nine full time trainees.

Additional fulltime trainees will be considered who meet all criteria and do not require a stipend.

Advanced, Medium and Short Term Trainees will not receive stipends.

Applicants: Training those from underrepresented groups, including non-professional family members and persons with disabilities, is a very high priority. Graduate or post-graduate

participants, family members, and self-advocates are welcome to apply. Professional trainees will be accepted only from the following disciplines: clinical or school psychology, social work, child psychiatry, pediatrics, speech/language pathology, physical therapy, education including special education, genetics, public health, and nursing.

Application Process

1) Please submit the following either via mail to Janice Enriquez, PhD, MIND Inst., 2825 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817 OR scan and email to jenriquez@ucdavis.edu :

- Northern California LEND Application
- Letter of interest: Please include interest in Northern CA LEND program, professional and/or personal experience with ASD/NDD, any interest in working with diverse populations, and career goals.
- Curriculum Vita or resume
- 2 Letters of Recommendation, including contact information of the letter writer
- For Graduate or Postgraduate applicants only (family and self-advocates do not need to submit this): submit an example of communication skills either via a written document, a video, or audio recording of an oral presentation, discussion, or interview

2) Applications will be reviewed by the LEND faculty team. Applicants meeting initial requirements will be contacted for a semi-structured interview with one or more faculty members. The discipline director will talk with the applicant and review their credentials and/or experience. Final decisions will be communicated to the applicant via email.