Traineeship for Family Members
2016-17

JFK Partners, Colorado’s University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program is offering a part-time 12-month Traineeship for Family Members to begin July 1, 2016.

The intent of the LEND program is to promote an interdisciplinary health professions team model of care, with special emphasis on improving care for children with ASD or other developmental disabilities. Inclusion of the family perspective is a hallmark of all LEND programs and learning alongside family members has been rated as one of the most valuable experiences of the other disciplines participating in the program.

Best practice indicates that family members of individuals with developmental disabilities provide a perspective critical to the successful development of effective policies and practices. Families who possess this perspective and are motivated by their experiences to improve systems of service for people with disabilities are an invaluable asset to our training program. The LEND experience provides family members with coursework and a community practicum experience to further develop their leadership and advocacy skills.

The training program is committed to the recruitment of culturally and ethnically diverse trainees. We encourage inquiries and applications from all qualified individuals. Bilingual Spanish-speaking applicants are encouraged to apply.

Important Notice: JFK Partners is competing in a new LEND grant funding cycle in February 2016, therefore all trainee positions are contingent upon receiving funding. Offers will be made with a contingency clause stating funding dependent on receipt of grant. We anticipate hearing about funding in May/June 2016.

Eligibility:
Applicants must

- Be a parent or sibling of an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disability.
- Have the ability to participate in all aspects of the LEND curriculum (i.e. orientation, course sessions, mentorship meetings, and community practicum)
- Have a willingness and commitment to advance the philosophy of LEND principles and practice;
- It also is preferable that parent or sibling have some past leadership experience.

Although this is a graduate education program and the health professionals participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, Family Trainees do not need a master’s degree to participate.

Due to grant policies, only candidates with US citizenship can be considered.
**Program Description:** Trainees will engage in a **1 ½ days per week** program of academic and practicum experiences to advance their skills in the areas of leadership, cultural competency, family centered care, advocacy, public policy, clinical knowledge, research, and other topics associated with improving healthcare for children with ASD or other developmental disabilities. Mentorship for Family Trainees is provided by the LEND Family Discipline Director, Kristen Kaiser, MA in collaboration with other faculty of the LEND program.

Trainee experiences include:

- Weekly mentorship
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Leadership (applicants must be available July 11-15, 2016 and July 18-22, 2016 from 2:00-5:00 pm daily for this in-person course held at the Anschutz Medical Campus)
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Time TBD)
- Community practicum experience resulting in a **leadership or systems change project** with a **presentation and/or product** that is completed by the trainee by the end of the 12-month experience

**Support:** Compensation for family trainees is $573 per month for 30% FTE (1½ days per week) and follows the pre-doctoral NIH level posted at [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-048.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-048.html). Tuition and fees for up to 10 credits to take the JFK Partners coursework is offered for those eligible for in-state tuition. Funding for this training comes from U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program.

**Application Procedure:**
Our application requires the submission of the following documents:

1. **Cover Letter Statement of Interest** - Please include the answers to the following:
   - Describe why a Family Traineeship at JFK Partners interests you and what you’d like learn from the experience.
   - Describe past experiences related to being a family leader or advocate working with or on behalf of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities.

2. **Resume**

**Deadline:**
The deadline for receipt of materials is **May 15, 2016**. Please send materials to: Dina Johnson, Associate Training Director, JFK Partners, 13121 E. 17th Ave., C234, Aurora, CO 80045. You can also email your application materials to Dina.Johnson@ucdenver.edu, but we ask that you send them all at one time.

**Questions:**
Please direct questions about the application to Dina Johnson at Dina.Johnson@ucdenver.edu or 303-724-7673.