**Traineeship for Self-Advocates**

**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 Self-Advocates to begin July 1, 2016.

The intent of the program is to promote an interdisciplinary health professions team model of care, with special emphasis on improving care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities. Inclusion of Self-Advocates to the roster of disciplines is a recent addition to our program and others like ours across the nation. Learning alongside Self-Advocates brings a new perspective for health professionals that brings issues to life. This training experience offers a way for Self-Advocates to learn more about disabilities other than their own through 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.

**Eligibility:**

Applicants must

- Be an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other 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 interdisciplinary principles and practice;
- It also is preferable that self-advocates 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, Self-Advocate 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 Self-Advocate Trainees is provided by JFK Partners faculty member, Tracy Price-Johnson in collaboration with other JFK faculty.

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 the Self-Advocate trainee 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). If university credit is needed, tuition and fees for up to 10 credits to take the JFK Partners coursework is offered for those eligible for in-state tuition.

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 Self-Advocate Traineeship at JFK Partners interests you and what you’d like learn from the experience.
   - Describe past experiences related to being a Self-Advocate 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 **June 1, 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.