



MCH TRAINING PROGRAM: COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

DIVISION OF RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU OF THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

◇ Mission

Communication disorders can severely impede healthy child development and result in significant disabilities. Many of these conditions are chronic and progressive and place significant burdens on infants, children, families and society. MCHB grant funds support institutions of higher education that are advancing health professionals' skills in caring for children with communication disorders. HRSA's MCHB particularly encourages the submission of applications focusing on early detection and management of hearing impairments in infants and young children. It is hoped that early detection, coupled with periodic assessment and early intervention will ameliorate the damaging effects of hearing impairments and disorders on speech and language development.

◇ Purpose

The purpose of this training is to provide a focus on leadership in communication disorders education through:

(1) Graduate training of speech/language pathologists and audiologists for leadership roles in education, service, research, academia, administration, and advocacy in programs providing health and related services for populations of children, particularly those with special health care needs; (2) development and dissemination of curricula, teaching models, and other educational resources to enhance MCH content in communication disorders training programs; and (3) continuing education, consultation and technical assistance geared to the needs of the MCH community.

◇ Highlights

◆ **Faculty/Trainees.** This MCH program supports faculty from a variety of disciplines by helping them to develop and to enhance curricula, teaching models, and other educational resources for the purpose of improving pediatric content in health care programs at all levels of higher education. Faculty are also supported and encouraged to use both qualitative and quantitative analytic techniques and advanced technology for learning on-site and in remote areas

Students enrolled in the training program receive training in several areas, including the following: (1) a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach to care management of young children, especially those at risk for communication disorders; (2) leadership programs such as apprenticeships and seminars; and (3) enrichment programs designed to establish and maintain mechanisms to bring together trainees from varied disciplines to share ideas and knowledge. Outstanding faculty leadership—excellence in teaching, research, and community service—is expected.

◆ **Continuing Education.** Although the primary purpose of MCHB support for training in a communication disorders program is the long-term training of professionals for leadership roles communications disorders projects also provide MCH consultation and technical assistance that is geared to the needs of the MCH community, including health professionals, policymakers, and parents. These projects have brought courses and in-service training to hundreds of practicing professionals in hospitals, clinics, universities, private-practice offices, and public schools. Nationally recognized experts often serve as facilitators. Examples of the offerings include grand rounds, guest lecture series, consultant lectureships, and symposia.



◇ Profile

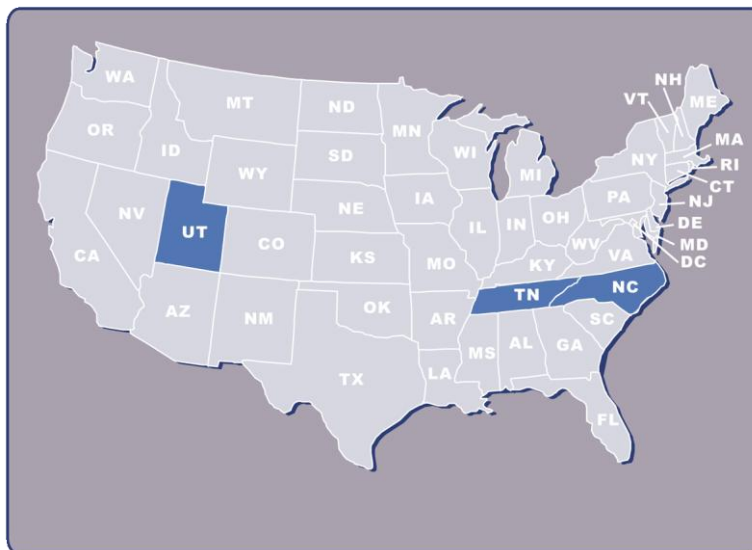
In FY 2009, MCHB funded three programs in communication disorders, with annual grant awards totaling \$400,000. The next competition for communication disorders grants is in FY 2013 ◇

◇ Program Locations

◇ **North Carolina**
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

◇ **Utah**
Utah State

◇ **Tennessee**
Vanderbilt University,
Nashville



For contact information and project abstracts:
<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/projects.asp?program=4>

◇ Bibliography

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 2007. *Leadership Education in Communication Disorders: Application Guidance*. Rockville, MD.

◇ Contact

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VISIT THE MCH TRAINING PROGRAM WEB SITE AT WWW.MCHB.HRSA.GOV/TRAINING
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON ALL TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTS.