

## MCH TRAINING PROGRAM: LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH (LEAH)

DIVISION OF RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

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

### ◇ Mission

In 1977, a new interdisciplinary MCH Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Training Program was established in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. LEAH provides interdisciplinary leadership training in adolescent health for five core disciplines including medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology and social work. The pre- and post-doctoral training prepares health professionals for leadership roles in public health practice and clinical care, research, training, and advocacy with the goal of improving family- and youth-centered, community-based care for adolescents and enhancing the capacity of Title V programs to improve young people's health. Currently, there are seven funded LEAH programs in the MCH Training Program.

In December 2008, the IOM released a report entitled *Adolescent Health Services: Missing Opportunities*. In the report, the IOM identified many missed chances to improve adolescent health care in the U.S. It was recommended in the report that regulatory bodies should incorporate competencies in adolescent health care for licensure, certification and accreditation requirements of health care providers, and that public and private funders should provide targeted financial support to expand and sustain interdisciplinary training programs in adolescent health - with priority on preparing specialists and educators/scholars.

In May 2009, the seven LEAH programs arranged for a meeting with the National Academies of Science, where the IOM is housed, to discuss how LEAH can collaborate with federal and private partners to fulfill the recommendations cited in the report. The LEAH programs are working together to issue an action plan that will build upon the recommendations in the IOM report. The strategies that they propose will require the assistance of federal and private partners. The programs believe that there should be an additional investment and expansion of the LEAH network, expanded collaboration with the CDC, the Robert Wood Johnson Scholars Program, NIH, and other training programs, creation of new forums for the communication of effective strategies and promising practices in adolescent health training and practice, and the inclusion of individuals providing adolescent health services in federally sponsored loan repayment programs.

### ◇ Purpose

The purpose of the MCH LEAH Training Program is to prepare trainees in a variety of professional disciplines for leadership roles in the public and academic sectors and to ensure high levels of clinical competence. Training is designed to integrate biological, developmental, mental health, social, economic, and environmental issues within a public health framework. The seven interdisciplinary programs consist of the following components:

1. Preparation that focuses on prevention as well as care coordination
2. Public health training, including opportunities for trainees to interact with state adolescent health coordinators
3. Training in research methodology
4. Development of clinical, communication, and teaching skills. ◆



## ◆ Highlights

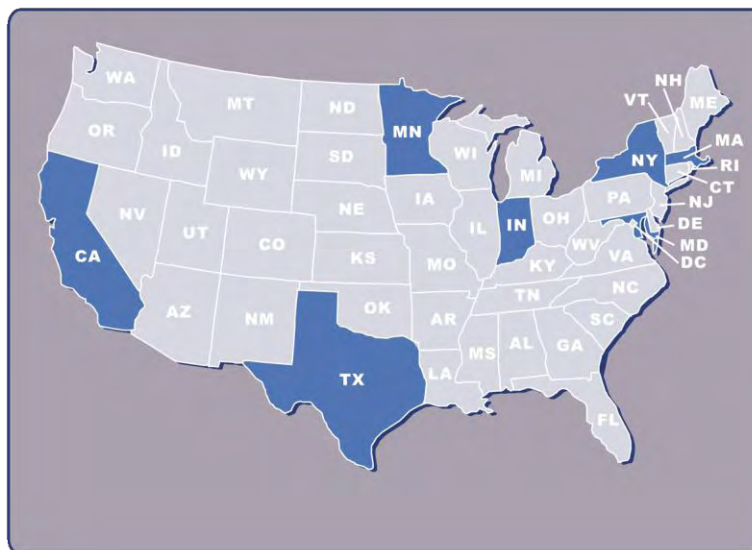
- ◆ **Trainees.** In any given year, more than 1600 persons receive training through these grants; approximately 92 of the trainees are long-term (300 or more hours), approximately 361 trainees are medium-term, and approximately 1,174 are short-term. The training includes classroom course work, skill development, mentoring, oral and written presentations, and clinical experience.
- ◆ **Faculty.** Core faculty at each site include pediatricians and internists who are sub-boarded in adolescent medicine, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists, and social workers. Faculty oversee the clinical experiences of trainees, as well as research, field experiences, and academic performance. Faculty also engage in clinical health services and social epidemiological research and provide continuing education and technical assistance for the health professional and policymaking communities. These activities include special meetings, workshops, and conferences. ◆

## ◆ Program Profile

In FY2009, MCHB funded seven projects in schools of medicine and teaching hospitals, with annual awards totaling \$2.6 million. The next competition for LEAH grants is in FY2012. ◆

## ◆ Program Locations

- ◆ **California**  
University of California at San Francisco
- ◆ **Indiana**  
Indiana University Medical Center,  
Indianapolis
- ◆ **Maryland**  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
- ◆ **Massachusetts**  
Children's Hospital and  
Harvard Medical School, Boston
- ◆ **Minnesota**  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- ◆ **New York**  
University of Rochester
- ◆ **Texas**  
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston



For contact information and project abstracts:  
[www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/projects.asp?program=1](http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/projects.asp?program=1) or  
[www.leah.mchtraining.net](http://www.leah.mchtraining.net)

## ◆ Bibliography

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

## ◆ Contact

For complete information about the MCH LEAH Training Program, contact:

**Madhavi Reddy, MSPH**  
Phone: 301-443-2190  
Email: [mreddy@hrsa.gov](mailto:mreddy@hrsa.gov)  
[www.leah.mchtraining.net](http://www.leah.mchtraining.net)

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FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON ALL TRAINING PROGRAM GRANTS.