



MCH TRAINING PROGRAM: LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL AND RELATED DISABILITIES (LEND)

DIVISION OF RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

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

◇ Mission

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) grants provide interdisciplinary training to enhance the clinical expertise and leadership skills of professionals dedicated to caring for children with neurodevelopmental and other related disabilities and special health care needs. Since their inception in the early 1950s, LENDs have trained thousands of individuals from a wide variety of disciplines to work with and provide the best possible services and supports for children with developmental disabilities and their families. The focus of these training programs has always been on children with a wide range of intellectual and developmental disabilities and special health care conditions, especially medically fragile children with multiple or complex challenges. More recently an additional focus has been added to this network's mission. Authorized in December 2006 and appropriated in December 2007, the Combating Autism Act of 2006 Public Law 109-416 brought additional funds to the LEND program to promote education, early detection, and intervention in autism and related developmental disabilities. There are currently 39 LEND programs located at universities or major Children's Hospitals across the nation. ◇

◇ Purpose

The purpose of the MCH LEND Training Program is to improve the health of children who have, or are at risk for, neurodevelopmental or related disabilities by preparing trainees from a wide variety of professional disciplines to assume leadership roles and to ensure high levels of clinical competence. With the authorization and appropriation of the Combating Autism act, new LENDs were created and all LENDs received supplements to carry out the following activities:

1. Increase awareness of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD);
2. Reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis;
3. Promote evidence based interventions for individuals with ASD or other developmental disabilities;
4. Promote guideline development for interventions; and
5. Train professionals to utilize valid screening tools to diagnose and to provide evidence based interventions.

Trainees in LEND programs receive a balance of academic, clinical, and community opportunities; are culturally competent; are ethnically diverse; demonstrate a capacity to evaluate, diagnose or rule out, develop, and provide evidence-based interventions to individuals with ASD; and demonstrate an ability to use a family-centered approachⁱ.

LEND program objectives include the following:

1. Advancing the knowledge and skills of the full range of child health professionals to improve health care delivery systems for children with developmental disabilities, including ASD
2. Providing high-quality education training for health professionals
3. Providing a wide range of health professionals with the skills needed to foster a community-based partnership of health resources and community leadership
4. Promoting innovative practice models that enhance cultural competency, partnerships between disciplines, and family-centered approaches to care



LEND funding is used to support the interdisciplinary trainees and faculty who work to identify the special needs of children and families on state, regional, and national levels. LENDs collaborate regularly with the myriad of health, education, and social service agencies serving children with developmental disabilities and their families. They also function as state, regional, and national resources by conducting continuing education activities, providing technical assistance and consultation, and developing and disseminating educational materials. ♦

♦ Highlights

♦ **Faculty.** The LEND program provides clinically based graduate and postgraduate leadership training for health professionals in the fields of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorders. LEND faculty are leaders in their fields and represent a variety of disciplines, including pediatrics, family practice, nursing, public health social work, nutrition, speech-language pathology, audiology, pediatric dentistry, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, health administration, special education, and genetics. Parents of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and individuals with special needs are also included as program faculty or paid consultants.

♦ **Trainees.** The trainees enrolled in LEND programs are working toward a graduate degree or are enrolled in a postgraduate program in one of the represented disciplines, with an emphasis on infants, children, and adolescents with special health care needs. The LEND program draws trainees and faculty from individual departments or colleges within the university. Degrees for the trainees are conferred by their home departments or colleges. Family members can be LEND trainees.

♦ **Curriculum.** The MCH LEND Training curriculum includes graduate education at the master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral training levels, with an emphasis on developing a knowledge and experience base that includes the following:

1. Knowledge of all aspects of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, including ASD.
2. Acquisition of interdisciplinary team skills
3. Knowledge of the family environment and cultural competency

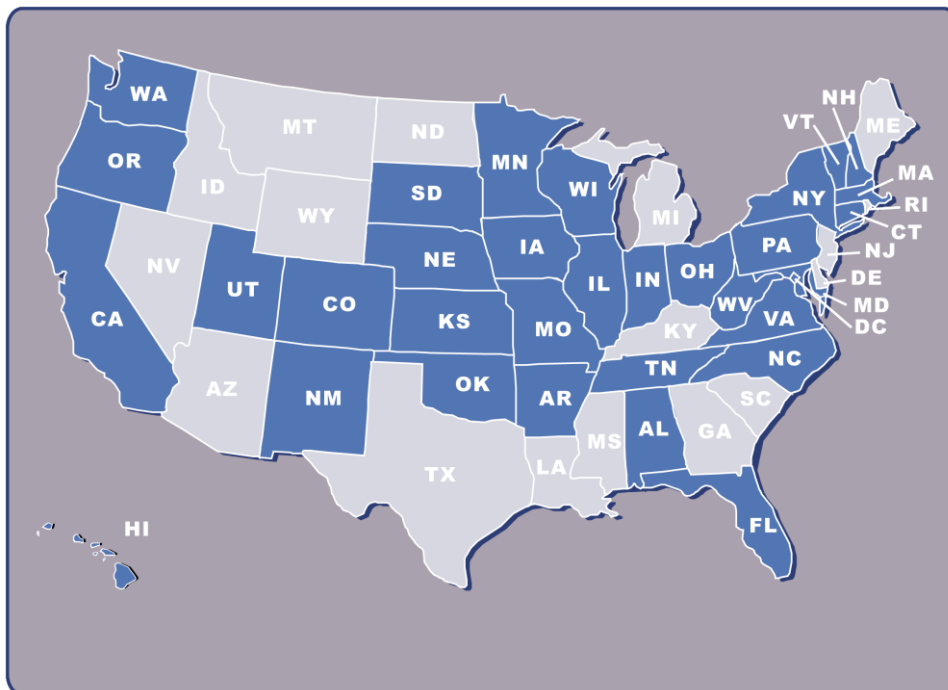
Course content and philosophy aim to prepare trainees to assume leadership roles in the development, improvement, and integration of health care systems for CSHCN in culturally appropriate, community-based, family-centered settings. ♦

♦ Program Profile

In FY2009, MCHB's Division of Research, Training, and Education conferred funding for 39 LEND programs, with annual grant awards totaling approximately \$26million. The next grant competition for LEND is in 2011. ♦



◇ Program Locations



- ◆ **Alabama**
University of Alabama at Birmingham
- ◆ **Arkansas**
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock
- ◆ **California**
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- ◆ **Colorado**
University of Colorado-Denver
- ◆ **Connecticut**
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington
- ◆ **District of Columbia**
Children's National Medical Center
- ◆ **Florida**
University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami
- ◆ **Hawaii**
University of Hawaii, Honolulu
- ◆ **Illinois**
University of Illinois at Chicago
- ◆ **Indiana**
Indiana University, Indianapolis
- ◆ **Iowa**
University of Iowa, Iowa City
- ◆ **Kansas**
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City
- ◆ **Massachusetts**
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Waltham
Children's Hospital, Boston
- ◆ **Maryland**
The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
- ◆ **Minnesota**
University of Minnesota
- ◆ **Missouri**
University of Missouri - Columbia
- ◆ **North Carolina**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- ◆ **Nebraska**
University of Nebraska, Omaha
- ◆ **New Hampshire**
Dartmouth - Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon
- ◆ **New Mexico**
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
- ◆ **New York**
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx
University of Rochester
New York Medical College, Valhalla



◆ **Ohio**

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati
Ohio State University, Columbus

◆ **Oklahoma**

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center,
Oklahoma City

◆ **Oregon**

Oregon Health & Science University, Portland

◆ **Pennsylvania**

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

◆ **South Dakota**

Sanford School of Medicine of The University
of South Dakota, Sioux Falls

◆ **Tennessee**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis
Vanderbilt University, Nashville

◆ **Utah**

University of Utah Health Science Center, Salt Lake City

◆ **Vermont**

University of Vermont, Burlington

◆ **Virginia**

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond

◆ **Washington**

University of Washington, Seattle

◆ **Wisconsin**

University of Wisconsin – Madison

◆ **West Virginia**

West Virginia University, Morgantown

For contact information and project abstracts:

www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/projects.asp?program=9 or www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=6.

For more information about the Combating Autism Act:

www.mchb.hrsa.gov/autism

◆ **Bibliography**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities: Application Guidance*. 2005. Rockville, MD.

◆ **Contact**

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ⁱ Combating Autism Act of 2006, Sec. 399BB(e)(1)(A)(B)

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