



California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

Interdisciplinary Training Program



CA-LEND Program Disciplines

CA-LEND faculty provide training in the following disciplines:

- Audiology
- Family Support
- Health Administration
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Oral Health
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Self-Advocacy
- Social Work
- Special Education
- Speech-Language Pathology

The CA-LEND program is one in a network of 60 programs in every state, the District of Columbia, the United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and six Pacific Basin jurisdictions funded through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), grant No. 5 T73MC00008-30-00.

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov>

About Us

Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (CA-LEND) Training Program is one of the oldest LEND programs in the United States. Since 1966, we have been training leaders, educating community providers, conducting research, and promoting systems change for children with or at risk of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Our mission is to create an interdisciplinary learning community where leaders in Maternal and Child Health, especially in California, prepare to serve children with, or at risk for, neuro-developmental disabilities and their families, with a life course perspective, through family-centered, culturally responsive, coordinated, comprehensive, developmentally appropriate clinical care, teaching, research, and systems change.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Interdisciplinary Leadership

Each discipline brings a unique and important perspective in providing a comprehensive approach to complex problems. Interdisciplinary teams collaborate with families to improve the health and development of children, perform cutting edge research, and advocate for improved systems of care.

Our Trainees

CA-LEND trainees are a diverse group of graduate, post graduate, postdoctoral and family support leaders. We select academically prepared applicants who have leadership potential and outstanding experience and commitment to improving the quality of life for children with NDD and special health care needs.



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Training Curriculum

The CA-LEND training program uses the life course perspective in a MCH competency-based curriculum to train the next generation of interdisciplinary leaders. Trainees develop leadership skills through an intensive and rigorous program in community, didactic, and clinical venues. The ultimate goal is to foster state of the art programs and policies to maximize outcomes for children and youth with NDD and special health care needs.

CA-LEND is a comprehensive 300 hours/32 week training program that runs September through May. A majority of the training activities are scheduled **on Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM** on a hybrid format, with virtual and in-person sessions with selected days that extend to 2:00 PM. Our curriculum consists of seven modules that cover the following areas:

- Genomic Conditions
- Neurological and Neuromotor Disabilities
- Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Intellectual and Learning Disabilities
- Chronic Illness and Special Health Care Needs
 - Vision, Hearing, Speech and Language Disorders

Learning modalities include web-based seminars, clinical cases, small group exercises, presentation skill development, interdisciplinary team modeling, service system engagement, family-based experiences, policy and advocacy work, research methodology, self-reflective leadership training, and clinical exposure.

The long-term training culminates in a Leadership Project in an area of interest with a tangible policy, research or community education product to complete the CA-LEND training.

CA-LEND Certificate Requirements

Successful mastery of competencies in an individually tailored learning program qualify a CA-LEND trainee to receive a long-term certificate. Leaders in the field recognize the certificate as an advanced leadership credential. Trainees receiving a certificate of completion are expected to achieve competencies in the following domains:

- Ethical and Professional Conduct
- Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Interdisciplinary Practice/ Collaborative Decision Making
- Health Care Systems and Communities
 - Public Policy
 - Critical Thinking
 - Leadership
- Family Centered and Community Responsive Care
- Communication, Teaching and Mentoring
 - Discipline Specific Skills

Medium and short-term training opportunities are available, depending on the participant's qualifications, interest, experience and availability. This program is sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the program or are interested in applying, please visit us at <https://www.ca-lead.org/> or email us at ca-lead@chla.usc.edu