



2025-2026 CA-LEND Application Requirements

Please submit this application form and other required materials (see CA-LEND Application Checklist) as soon as possible as we have rolling admissions. The CA-LEND training program begins early-September and ends in late-May.

Note: In order to be eligible for a stipend for your participation in the CA-LEND program, you must hold US citizenship or permanent resident status. This is based on our federal funding requirements.

CA-LEND Application Checklist

- ☐ CA-LEND Universal Application
- ☐ Resume/ CV
- ☐ Statement of Interest (format varies depending on discipline)
 - Personal Statement
- OR**
- Self-Advocacy Discipline Interest Questions (Recommended for Self-Advocacy Applicants)
- ☐ Two references should be asked to complete the reference form available on our website

Email or mail completed application and materials to:

CA-LEND Program
Attn: Leeda Sea, CA-LEND Project Coordinator
4650 Sunset Blvd., MS# 53
Los Angeles, CA 90027-6062
Phone: (323-361-5869)
Email: ca-lend@chla.usc.edu

**Please include the discipline(s) to which you are applying in the subject line of the email*

****Feel free to call or email with any questions regarding the application process**

Personal Statement (Not Required for Self-Advocate Applicants)

The CA-LEND training program aims to recruit fellows with a diverse range of experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives and who represent diverse intersectional identities. Each applicant is asked to submit a brief personal statement, no more than two pages.

Please consider including the following:

- (1) your professional and personal philosophy, short- and long-term career goals, and how involvement in the CA-LEND training program will help you achieve these goals
- (2) information about your experience or work with children, families and persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities, including the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, or chronic health conditions
- (3) an example from your personal or professional life that highlights your leadership capacity and/or potential
- (4) your interest in the fellowship and what you hope to learn/ gain from the experience

You are welcome to include any other information you would like to share with us.

Interest Questions (Required ONLY for Self-Advocate Applicants)

Because our Self-Advocacy Trainees have credentials that are based on life experience and possibly formal schooling, we would like to get some information from you about your background. Please limit personal statements to no more than two pages.

- (1) How would you describe self-advocacy personally and professionally?
- (2) Please tell us about a time where you advocated for yourself or another person.
- (3) How many years of experience, either paid or unpaid, do you have in providing positive change in the community?