

Dental Training in Developmental Disabilities

2026-27

JFK Partners, Colorado's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program is offering a Dental Traineeship to begin **August 1, 2026**.

The purpose of the training program is to improve the health and well-being of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities by preparing an interdisciplinary cadre of professionals to take leadership roles in providing services, improving systems of care, and building inclusive communities for these individuals and their families.

Dental Trainees will:

- complete at least 300 hours in training
- acquire an understanding of the roles of various disciplines that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families
- understand the perspectives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families
- explore community resources
- learn about disability legislation and systems
- complete and share a scholarly project related to their career goals. See example [Scholarly Projects](#) on the JFK Partners website.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be enrolled in the DDS program at CU School of Dental Medicine or have completed a DDS or DMD degree at another university and be enrolled in a local pediatric dentistry residency program. Dental residents currently enrolled AEGD, GPR programs may also apply to the program.
- A student/trainee/fellow receiving support from grant funds must be a citizen of the United States or a foreign national having in his/her possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States, or a non-citizen national.

Program Description: Dental trainees receive a balance of interdisciplinary, academic and scholarship opportunities that include experiences to learn about serving individuals with disabilities and their families in a family-centered, community responsive manner.

- Must attend:
 - Leadership Dialogues 1 (daily Aug 3-7 and Aug 10-14, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm)
 - CLSC 6653/6654 Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Course on Tuesdays 8:15-10:15 AM (Sept-Apr).
- Optional coursework
 - Leadership Dialogues 2: Policy & Advocacy (Jan-Mar – 5 sessions and a day at the Colorado Capitol at IDD Awareness Day in March)
 - CLSC 6668 Screening/Assessment – Tues 1:10-3:30 PM (Fall)
 - CLSC 6664 Intervention – Tues 1:10-3:30 PM (Spring)

Support: A stipend of approximately \$6,000 over 9.5 months for this graduate level, part-time (12 hours/week) position is available for those completing the program in 300 hours or more. JFK Partners is applying for a competing renewal in 2026 so letters of offer cannot be provided until the award is received.

Application:

1. Cover Letter Statement of Interest - Please include the answers to the following:
 - Describe why training at JFK Partners interests you.
 - Have you had any experience with Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) training? If so, which program?
 - Describe past experiences related to working with individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities (AS/DD) and your interest in working with this population.
 - Are you a family member of an individual with AS/DD? (Disclose to your comfort.)
 - How does advanced training in neurodevelopmental disabilities fit with your future professional plans?
2. Graduate school transcripts (unofficial)
3. Resume or Curriculum Vita (CV)
4. Two (2) recommendations (letters or emails) from faculty or supervisors familiar with your interests and work relevant to this traineeship.

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of materials is **May 1, 2026**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

Please contact Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.
Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.