



Family Member Traineeship 2021-22

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 part-time Traineeship for Family Members **to begin July, 2021.**

The training emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to assessment, intervention, research, family support, service coordination, and community integration to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Goals of the program include development of disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise, as well as skills in the areas of consultation, leadership, and research.

Inclusion of the family perspective is a hallmark of all LEND programs and learning alongside family members has been rated as one of the most valuable experiences of the other disciplines participating in the program.

Best practice indicates that family members of individuals with developmental disabilities provide a perspective critical to the successful development of effective policies and practices. Families who possess this perspective and are motivated by their experiences to improve systems of service for people with disabilities are an invaluable asset to our training program. The trainee attends courses offered by JFK Partners and is expected to pursue a research project or scholarly activity in developmental disabilities.

Eligibility:

Applicants must

- Be a parent or sibling of an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disability
- Have the ability to participate in all aspects of the LEND curriculum (i.e. orientation, course sessions, mentorship meetings, and community practicum)
- Have a willingness and commitment to advance the philosophy of LEND principles and practice
- Have some past leadership experience
- Be a U.S. citizen

Although this is a graduate education program and the health professionals participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, Family Trainees do not need a master's degree to participate.

JFK Partners is committed to the recruitment of culturally diverse individuals. Bilingual Spanish-speaking applicants and all other qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Program Description: Trainees will engage in a **1 ½ days per week** program of academic and practicum experiences to advance their skills in the areas of leadership, cultural competency, family centered care, advocacy, public policy, clinical knowledge, research, and other topics associated with improving healthcare for children with ASD or other developmental disabilities.

Trainee experiences include:

- Weekly mentorship
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Leadership (Summer 2021 - 2-week daily 3-hour in-person course held at the Anschutz Medical Campus)
- Coursework in Screening and Assessment, and Intervention (Tuesday afternoons Sept-Apr). This course is optional but recommended
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Spring Semester)
- A leadership/scholarly project with a **presentation and product** that is completed by the trainee by the end of the training experience

Support: A stipend for Family Trainees is available and will be discussed during interviews. This traineeship position and funding are contingent upon JFK Partners receiving grant funding.

Application Procedure:

Our application requires the submission of the following documents:

1. Cover Letter Statement of Interest - Please include the answers to the following:
 - Describe why a Family Traineeship at JFK Partners interests you and what you'd like learn from the experience.
 - Describe past experiences related to being a family leader or advocate working with or on behalf of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities.
2. Resume

Deadline:

The deadline for receipt of materials is **February 1, 2021**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

Questions:

Please direct questions about the traineeship to Kristen Kaiser at Kristen.Kaiser@cuanschutz.edu or about the application to Christine Cook at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu or 303-724-0429.