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 August, 2021.

The purpose of the LEND program is to improve the health of individuals who have or are at risk for developing autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities by providing graduate-level training in maternal and child health interdisciplinary leadership education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities.

Inclusion of the family perspective (parent and/or sibling) 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. Families are motivated by their experiences to improve systems of service for people with disabilities are an invaluable asset to our training program.

Eligibility:
Applicants must

- Be a parent or sibling of an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other Developmental Disability.
- Must be available to take coursework on Tuesdays (Sept-May) and attend a Leadership Course (daily Aug 2-6 and 9-13, 2021 from 2:00-5:00 pm).
- Have a willingness and commitment to advance the philosophy of LEND principles and practice.
- Have some past leadership experience.
- Only candidates with US citizenship may be considered.

Although this is a graduate education program and the others 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 and retention of diverse faculty, staff and trainees to enrich the training environment and better prepare professionals and advocates to promote health equity, wellness, and reduced disparities. We have had challenges recruiting trainees that match the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of Colorado. It is a priority to JFK Partners to increase representation of the workforce so it reflects the community we serve. Bilingual Spanish-speaking applicants, in addition to those with racial, ethnic and cultural diversity are encouraged to apply.

Program Description: Trainees will engage in a 12-hour/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 Leadership (Summer 2021 – Aug 2-6 and 9-13, 2021 from 2-5 PM daily – may be online depending on COVID-19 campus restrictions)
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Screening and Assessment, and Intervention (Tuesday afternoons Sept-Apr). These courses are optional but recommended.
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Spring Semester)
- Training experience resulting in a scholarly project with a presentation and product that is completed and presented by the trainee by the end of the training experience.

Support: A stipend for Family Trainees completing the training program with 300 hours or more is available and will be discussed during interviews. This position and funding are contingent upon JFK Partners receiving grant funding. JFK Partners is applying for a competing renewal in 2021, so letters of offer cannot be made until the award is received.

Application:
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 April 1, 2021. Please email materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

Please contact Kristen Kaiser, MA, MPH, Family Discipline Director or Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions. Kristen.Kaiser@cuanschutz.edu  |  Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu