

Nutrition Training in Developmental Disabilities

2025-26

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 Nutrition Traineeship **to begin August 1, 2025.**

The purpose of the LEND 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.

Nutrition Trainees will:

- complete at least 300 hours in training (can include clinical hours that serve families with children with disabilities from Dietetic Internship)
- 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 (can count for both Dietetic Internship and LEND traineeship). See example Scholarly Projects on the JFK Partners website.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must have received the required graduate degree (Master's), be in a Dietetic Internship, or be a Registered Dietitian or RD eligible.
- Only candidates with U.S. citizenship may be considered, based on funding agency requirement.

Program Description: Nutrition 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, culturally competent manner.

- Must attend:
 - Leadership Dialogues 1 (daily Aug 4-8 and Aug 11-15, 2025 from 1:00-4:00 pm) (In-person)
 - CLSC 6653/6654 Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Course on Tuesdays 8:15-10:15 AM (Sept-Apr). (In-person)
- 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.

This position and funding are contingent upon JFK Partners receiving grant funding. This position is funded by a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Award #2 T73MC11044-14-00, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2026.

Application:

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 (ASD/DD) and your interest in working with this population.
- Are you a family member of an individual with ASD/DD? (Disclose to your comfort.)
- How does advanced training in neurodevelopmental disabilities fit with your future professional plans?

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, social equality, and reduced disparities. While we have had challenges recruiting trainees that match Colorado's racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, it is a priority for JFK Partners to increase workforce representation to reflect the community we serve. Bilingual Spanish-speaking applicants, in addition to those with historically underrepresented racial, ethnic, and cultural identities are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of materials is **April 15, 2025.** 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