



JFK Partners

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Public Health Traineeship 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 part-time Public Health Traineeship **to begin August 1, 2026**.

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.

Public Health Trainees will:

- 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 have received a graduate degree (Master's) in Public Health or be in the second year of a Public Health Master's program.
- Candidates should have a strong interest in autism and other developmental disabilities.
- 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: Public Health LEND trainees will engage in a 12-hour/week academic program 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 and inclusion for individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities.

Trainee experiences include:

- complete at least 300 hours in the training program
- regular mentorship
- coursework in Leadership (daily Aug 3-7 and Aug 10-14, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm)
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities on Tuesdays 8:15-10:15 AM (Sept-Apr). (In-person)
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Five Tues didactic sessions 10:30-12:30 Jan-Mar and IDD Awareness Day at Colorado Capitol)
- Attendance at the Annual JFK Partners Autism Conference (Oct)

- 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.
- Optional Coursework in Screening and Assessment, and Intervention (Tuesday afternoons Sept-Apr).

Support: A stipend of approximately \$6,000 for 9.5 months for this part-time (12-hours/week), pre-doctoral trainee 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:

Our application requires the submission of the following documents:

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

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 Kristina Hightshoe, MSPH, Public Health Discipline Director or
Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.

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