



## **Self-Advocate 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 10-month Traineeship for Self-Advocates **to begin Aug, 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 Self-Advocates in the group of disciplines is a recent addition to our program and other programs like ours around the country. Learning alongside Self-Advocates brings a new perspective for health professionals and shows advocacy in a real context. This traineeship offers Self-Advocates the chance to learn more about legislation, community resources, programs and projects that support individuals with disabilities. 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 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)
- Support and advance the philosophy of interdisciplinary principles and practice
- Have some past leadership experience

Although this is a graduate education program and the health professionals participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, Self-Advocacy trainees do not need a master's degree to participate. Only candidates with US citizenship can be considered.

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 experiences to advance their skills in leadership, cultural competency, patient and 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 (applicants must be available for the 2-week intensive course in July/Aug, 2021 2:00-5:00 pm daily for this in-person course held at the Anschutz Medical Campus). Dates TBD.
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (four Tues mornings and 1 full-day at the Colorado Capitol Building)
- Training experience resulting in a **leadership 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 Self-Advocacy Trainees is available and will be discussed during the interview process. 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 Self-Advocacy Traineeship at JFK Partners interests you and what you would like to learn from this experience.
  - Describe past experiences related to being a Self-Advocacy leader or advocate working with or on behalf of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities.
2. Resume

**Deadline:**

The deadline for materials is **Feb 1, 2021**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at [Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu).

**Questions:**

Please direct questions about the application process to Christine Cook ([Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu) or 303-724-0429). Questions regarding the traineeship may be directed to Tracy Price-Johnson ([Tracy.Price-Johnson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Tracy.Price-Johnson@cuanschutz.edu) or 303-724-2676).