



JFK Partners

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Self-Advocate Traineeship

2022-23

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 August 1, 2022.**

The purpose of the LEND program is to improve the health and well-being of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. LEND prepares a group of people from different disciplines to work together as leaders in providing services, improving systems of care, and building inclusive communities.

Self-Advocate trainees will:

- learn how to navigate disability systems better
- network and connect with others who have similar commitments and values
- understand the process of developing and completing a leadership project
- impact policy by learning how to interact with policymakers
- influence practice of future social workers, psychologists, teachers, and others
- explore community resources

Requirements:

- Applicants must be an individual with a developmental disability or autism
- Must be available to take coursework on Tuesdays (Sept-May) and attend the Leadership Course (daily Aug 1-5 and 8-12, 2022 from 2:00-5:00 pm). (May be in-person or online based on COVID-19)
- Work well within a team
- Willingness to learn and speak up to share your experiences and experiences of others with I/DD
- Interest in advancing their leadership skills
- Have some past leadership experience
- Be a U.S. citizen and live in Colorado

Although LEND is a graduate education program and the others participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, **Self-Advocacy trainees are not required to have post high school education.**

Participation during COVID-19: It is preferred that all courses and clinical/community observations be completed in-person at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO to gain the most from the interdisciplinary cohort, however during COVID-19, it may be required to complete them online. For this reason, applicants need to have access to a computer and a reliable internet connection. Please notify us in your application if this is a barrier to your participation.

Trainee experiences include:

- 12-hour/week program of training – Aug 2022-May 2023
- Weekly mentorship
- Coursework in Leadership (daily Aug 1-5 and 8-12, 2022 from 2:00-5:00 pm)
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tues 8:15-10:15 Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Five Tues course sessions 10:30-12:30 Jan-Mar and IDD Awareness Day at Colorado Capitol)
- Attendance at the Annual JFK Partners Autism Conference (Oct)
- Completion of a year-long scholarly project with a faculty member
- Optional coursework in Screening & Assessment, and Intervention (Tues afternoons Sept-Apr).

Support: A stipend of \$646/mo for 10 months for this part time (12 hours/week) position is available for those completing the program in 300 hours or more. A Benefits Counselor will be available for consultation for those selected who may need flexible payment options due to SSI or other benefits they receive.

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: Our application requires the submission of the following documents:

1. Cover Letter Statement of Interest - Please include the answers to the following:
 - Why does a Self-Advocacy Traineeship at JFK Partners interest you?
 - What would you like to learn from this experience?
 - Describe leadership training or experiences that you have had related to disability advocacy.
 - How will you use what you learn in this training?
2. Resume – Include all previous leadership and disability advocacy training you have completed
3. References with phone numbers/emails - 2-3 people who have worked with you in a work or volunteer work setting

Deadline:

The deadline for materials is **Apr 1, 2022**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

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.

Please contact Robin Ennis, Self-Advocacy Discipline Director or
Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.
Robin.Ennis@cuanschutz.edu | Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu