



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 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.

The voice of Self-Advocate trainees 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 provides the advocacy perspective 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 to be better advocates for themselves and others.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be an individual with autism or other developmental disability.
- 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). (In-person and online)
- Have a willingness and commitment to advance the philosophy of LEND principles and practice.
- Have some past leadership experience.
- Only candidates with U.S. citizenship may be considered, based on funding agency requirement

Participation during COVID-19: It is preferred that all courses and clinical/community observations be completed in-person 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.

Although this is a graduate education program and the others participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, Self-Advocacy 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, 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.

Program Description: Self-Advocacy 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 and inclusion of individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities.

Trainee experiences include:

- 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 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 & 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.

Courses completed during the training are eligible to be considered as electives for the [MPH in Maternal and Child Health](#). Tuition for course credit is not provided above the stipend amount. Trainees who wish to receive credit need to apply to be a Non-Degree Seeking Graduate Student with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, register, and pay for the courses.

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?
 - What leadership experiences have you had related to being a Self-Advocate or advocating with or on behalf of others with autism or other developmental disabilities.
 - Describe any coursework and/or professional or volunteer experiences with policy or advocacy.
2. Resume or Curriculum Vita (CV)

Deadline:

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

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