

## **Special Education/Education Traineeship in Developmental Disabilities**

**2024-25**

**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 Special Education/Education Traineeship to begin **August 1, 2024**.

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.

### **Special Education/Education 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

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants must have received graduate degree (Master's) in Special Education or Education or be in a Special Education or Education graduate program.
- Candidates should have a strong interest in autism and other developmental disabilities.
- Only candidates with U.S. citizenship may be considered, based on funding agency requirement.

All courses and clinical/community observations will be in-person to gain the most from the interdisciplinary cohort, however it may be required to complete certain classes or observations 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.

**Program Description:** Education/Special Education 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:**

- 12-hour/week program of training – Aug 2024-May 2025
- Regular mentorship
- Coursework in Leadership (daily Aug 5-9 and Aug 12-16, 2024 from 1:00-4:00 pm)
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings 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 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.

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:
  - Describe why a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) training experience interests you?
  - 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?
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 training position.

**Deadline:** The deadline for receipt of materials is **March 15, 2024**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at [Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu](mailto: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 Dina Johnson, MA, Education/ Special Education Discipline Director or  
Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.  
[Dina.Johnson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Dina.Johnson@cuanschutz.edu) | [Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu)