



Special Education/Education 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 Special Education/Education 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.

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. Professionals working in the field are eligible to apply.
- 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 receive a balance of interdisciplinary, academic and scholarship opportunities that include experiences to learn about serving individuals with disabilities and their families in a family-centered, culturally competent manner.

- Must attend
 - Leadership Dialogues 1 (daily Aug 3-7 and Aug 10-14, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm) (In-person)
 - CLSC 6653/6654 Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Course on Tuesdays 8:15-10:15 AM (Sept-Apr). (In-person)
- Optional coursework
 - Leadership Dialogues 2: Policy & Advocacy (Jan-Mar – 5 sessions and a day at the Colorado Capitol at IDD Awareness Day in March)
 - CLSC 6668 Screening/Assessment – Tues 1:10-3:30 PM (Fall)
 - CLSC 6663 Intervention – Tues 1:10-3:30 PM (Spring)

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. 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 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 (Autism/DD) and your interest in working with this population.
 - Are you a family member of an individual with Autism/DD? (Disclose to your comfort.)
 - How does advanced training in neurodevelopmental disabilities fit with your future professional plans?
2. Resume or Curriculum Vita (CV)
3. Unofficial transcripts
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 **May 1, 2026**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

Please contact Dina Johnson, MA, Education/ Special Education Discipline Director or Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.
Dina.Johnson@cuanschutz.edu | Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu