

LEND OF PITTSBURGH

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

WHAT IS LEND?

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs provide long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities. They accomplish this by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by insuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.



LEND programs operate within a university system, usually as part of a University Center for Excellence (UCEDD) or other larger entity, and collaborate with local university hospitals and/or health care centers. This arrangement provides them the expert faculty, facilities, and other resources necessary to provide exceptional interdisciplinary training and services. Our core LEND funded faculty come from medicine, social work, physical therapy, audiology, public health, dental, psychology, nursing, family, and speech language pathology.

There are currently 43 LENDs in 37 states. Collectively, they form a national network that shares information and resources and maximizes their impact. They work together to address national issues of importance to children with special health care needs and their families, exchange best practices and develop shared products. They also come together regionally to address specific issues and concerns.

While each LEND program is unique, with its own focus and expertise, they all provide interdisciplinary training, have faculty and trainees in a wide range of disciplines, and include parents or family members as paid program participants. They also share the following objectives:

- ◆ advancing the knowledge and skills of all child health professionals to improve health care delivery systems for children with developmental disabilities;
- ◆ providing high-quality interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services from state and local agencies and organizations, private providers, and communities;
- ◆ providing health professionals with skills that foster community-based partnerships; and
- ◆ promoting innovative practices to enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships.

The LENDs grew from the 1950s efforts of the Children's Bureau (now the Maternal and Child Health Bureau) to identify children with disabilities as a Title V program priority. They are funded under the 2006 Combating Autism Act and are administered by the Health Resources and Service's Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LEND TRAINEE?

LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) trainees participate in a comprehensive interdisciplinary training program through the following activities:



- Enrolling in two structured LEND courses
- Contributing to research efforts in collaboration with University of Pittsburgh faculty
- Participating in outreach activities and community organizations that focus on improving the lives of individuals with disabilities (advocacy training)
- Collaborating with interdisciplinary teams in the LEND clinical program.
- Spending one-on-one time with families of children with special needs through the Families as Mentors Programs

WHO CAN TRAIN AT THE LEND CENTER OF PITTSBURGH?

The **LEND Center at the University of Pittsburgh** is an 8-month interdisciplinary training program affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh. Each year, the LEND Center offers several funded traineeships to advanced graduate students interested in working with children with special needs (i.e. sickle cell disease, developmental disabilities, and chronic emotional problems) and their families through research training, classroom exposures, and clinical opportunities.

Graduate students enrolled in the following programs are eligible for funded training at the LEND Program:

- ◆ Audiology
- ◆ Dentistry
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Ethics
- ◆ Genetics
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Occupational Therapy
- ◆ Pharmacy
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Physical Therapy
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Social Work
- ◆ Speech/Language Pathology

To qualify for a stipend, students must be available on Wednesdays from 9 AM to 4 PM for coursework, community outreach and clinic. Trainees commit 300 hours (10-hours per week) to LEND across the academic year. Applications are accepted beginning in January of each academic year and an Open House is held at the end of January.

For additional information, please contact us:

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