



IL LEND Training Program Application Packet

What is LEND?

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Interdisciplinary Training Program is a 1 year training program that incorporates both *didactic* and *experiential* learning in clinical and community-based settings. This program aims to prepare future leaders who will serve children with neurodevelopmental (including related disabilities and autism) and their families through coordinated, culturally competent, and family-centered care, as well as public health services and policy systems change.

Training Activities

A minimum of 15 graduate-level health professionals from the core disciplines of (1) Child Psychiatry, (2) Disability Studies, (3) Nursing, (4) Nutrition, (5) Occupational Therapy, (6) Pediatrics, (7) Physical Therapy, (8) Psychology, (9) Public Health, (10) Social Work, and (11) Speech and Hearing, will receive leadership and discipline specific didactic and clinical training during each year of the project. A stipend up to \$5000 per year will be provided.

The LEND training covers the following areas: Neurodevelopmental Disabilities emphasizing Autism-Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Disabilities, Social Adaptation, Genetic Disorders, and Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary aspects of Prevention and Health Promotion. Learning experiences include weekly core seminars that meet every Thursday from 4PM-7PM, monthly leadership seminars, interdisciplinary group activities, associated systems, policy, and clinical care coordination issues, research practicum, and family mentoring. Examples of activities are scenario-based learning sessions, comprehensive developmental assessment, policy and research groups, agency and family visits, and participation in other community education activities during the **32-week comprehensive training, starting October 1, 2008 and ending May 13, 2009.**

Requirements

As a trainee enrolled in the LEND Program you **are required to complete a minimum of 300 hours or more of didactic, advanced clinical, and interdisciplinary leadership training (about 9 hours per week);** and the following activities:

- Participate in the LEND Orientation
- Meet with your Discipline Coordinator on a regular basis
- Complete the LEND trainee registration requirements (within the first month of traineeship)
- Complete an Individual Leadership Training Plan (ILTP), your personal map to your training experience
- Attend Seminars during the two semesters every Thursday from 4PM to 7PM
- Participate in Clinical Training
- Participate in Leadership Activities
- Complete and present a Leadership Project
- Complete an exit form upon completion of the LEND program

A collaborative program of the University of Illinois, Department of Disability and Human Development; University of Chicago, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, and the Autism Center of Excellence.

Admission Guidelines and Application

If you are interested in applying for a trainee position, please contact your LEND Discipline Coordinator listed below. You must have at least a baccalaureate degree and be enrolled in a graduate program. A trainee must be a US citizen, or must have been admitted to the US with a permanent resident visa. The application form should be completed following your discussion with your Discipline Coordinator regarding your qualifications, interests, and goals. If you have additional questions about the program, please visit our webpage at www.IllinoisLEND.org or contact our LEND Associate Project Director:

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(312) 996-3982
jsisir1@uic.edu

LEND Discipline Coordinators

Child Psychiatry
Disability Studies
Nursing
Nutrition
Occupational Therapy
Pediatrics
Physical Therapy
Psychology
Public Health
Social Work
Speech and Hearing

Edwin H. Cook, MD
Carol J. Gill, PhD
Rosemary White-Traut, PhD, RN, FAAN
Carol Braunschweig, PhD
Brent H. Braveman, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Peter J. Smith, MD, MA
Demetra John, PT, PhD
Elina Manghi, PsyD
Noel Chávez, PhD, RD, LDN
Barbara Coats, AM, LCSW
Karen Tessler, PhD, CCC-SLP

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LEND Team

Ann Cutler, MD
LEND Director

Beth Marks, RN, PhD
LEND Co-Director

Jasmina Sisirak, MPH
LEND Associate Project Director

Erika Magallanes
LEND Business Administrator



IL LEND Training Program Application Form

Admission Guidelines

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Directions for Applicants

1. Complete the attached Cover Page.
2. Attach the following: (a) typed, narrative responses to the attached Application Questions, and (b) current Curriculum Vitae.
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from faculty members or clinicians with whom you have been associated in the past.
4. Request an official transcript of your grades (under unusual circumstances, unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
5. Submit the application materials to the faculty member from your discipline who will be your LEND Discipline Coordinator. After review, the Discipline Coordinator will submit your application to the LEND Director.
6. Under some circumstances, applicants may be requested to interview with one or more members of the traineeship review committee.
7. Applicants should provide evidence of liability insurance coverage, as is typically provided by their school.

If you have additional questions about the program, please visit our webpage at www.IllinoisLEND.org.

Deadline to apply is October 1, 2008.



IL LEND Training Program Application Cover Page

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Date of birth _____ Gender _____ Racial identity _____

Place of birth _____ U.S. Citizen: Yes ___ No ___

If no, admitted to the U.S. with a permanent resident visa? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

FAX _____ E-Mail _____

CURRENT EDUCATION

College/University _____

Program/s of Study _____ Advisor _____

Anticipated Degree _____ Anticipated Date of Graduation _____

PRIOR EDUCATION

Undergraduate College/University _____

Program/s of Study _____

Degree _____ Date of Graduation _____

Graduate College/University _____

Program/s of Study _____

Degree _____ Date of Graduation _____

Graduate College/University _____

Program/s of Study _____

Degree _____ Date of Graduation _____



IL LEND Training Program Application Questions

DIRECTIONS

Please answer each question with as much detail as you can. Please type your responses and attach the pages to the application packet.

1. The IL LEND program aims to choose participants with a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives. With that in mind, tell us a bit about your background in terms of maternal and child health experiences.
2. The IL LEND program focuses on family-centered culturally effective practices in providing supports and services to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and other developmental disabilities and their families. What experiences have you had with individuals with disabilities? With families?
3. The IL LEND program is designed to support the development of leadership skills that will assist participants to be effectively engaged in positive social change for people with disabilities. What do you believe are the characteristics of an effective leader? Tell us about any opportunities you have had to be a leader. How would you describe your effectiveness in these situations? What skills did you use? What have you experienced as barriers to effective leadership?
4. Participants in the IL LEND program join an ever-expanding community of leaders, both current participants and past graduate. As a prospective member of that community, what gifts do you bring? What fears? What hopes?
5. The IL LEND program is a tremendous learning experience, one that we want each participant to benefit from. What would you say is your preferred learning style? What accommodations or supports do you need to learn effectively?
6. What are your goals for participation in the IL LEND program? What are your career goals related to children with disabilities, family members, and community health services?

The commitment of the University of Illinois to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity requires that decisions involving students and employees be based on individual merit and be free from invidious discrimination in all its forms. The University of Illinois will not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military or status as a protected veteran and will comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities.



IL LEND Training Program Application Checklist

- Completed the Cover Page
- Attached typed narrative responses to the Application Questions
- Attached current Curriculum Vitae
- Submitted two letters of recommendation from faculty members or clinicians
- Submitted a copy of official transcript of your grades (under unusual circumstances, unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- Provided evidence of liability insurance coverage
- Provided evidence of a background check