

**Louisiana Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental
and Related Disabilities (LA LEND)**

Application Packet for Students & Professionals

2020 - 2021

Deadline: April 20, 2020

What is LEND?

LA LEND is a nine-month 300+ hour interdisciplinary training program that incorporates both didactic and experiential learning in clinical and community-based settings. LA LEND prepares graduate students, self-advocates, family members, and practicing professionals to become future leaders in maternal and child health fields to address the needs and priorities of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or other neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) and their families. A faculty mentor is assigned to support trainees to complete and master components of the LA LEND program. More information can be found by visiting the LA LEND website at www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/lend.

Overview of Training Program Components

In order to be eligible for acceptance into the LA LEND training program, trainees must have the availability to complete the program components listed below.

- A full-day **orientation** to LA LEND to be held (Wednesday, July 15, 2020)
- **Foundations in Maternal and Child Health** (August 3-8, 2020)
 - A week-long intensive course that takes an in-depth look at issues and concepts in maternal and child health
- **Seminars in Maternal & Child Health Topics & Leadership Development** (Fridays, 12:30 – 4:30 pm)
 - Biweekly in-person and virtual seminars with embedded clinical/community experiences to build content knowledge and develop leadership skills
 - In-person session dates: Aug 21; Sep 4; Sep 25; Oct 2; Oct 23; Nov 6; Jan 8; Jan 15; Feb 19; Mar 5; Apr 9 & Apr 23
 - Concurrent clinical/field experiences (*3 per semester; dates TBD*)
- **Family Mentoring Experience**
 - Each Trainee is paired with a family for a year-long mentorship experience to better understand the “lived experience” of families with children with disabilities
 - 6 total visits completed over the course of the year
- **Leadership Project**
 - Each Trainee will complete a self-directed 70+ hour leadership project for which he or she exercises leadership skills to address a maternal and child health related issue
- Travel to **Association for University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2020 Conference** (December 6-9, 2020)

Training Program Requirements

Trainees must be available to attend all of the following to be considered for the program. Applicants who are unavailable for these events will not be accepted to the program. Please read the list of program requirements outlined below.

- ┆ Mandatory full-day LA LEND orientation on Wednesday, July 15, 2020
- ┆ Mandatory week-long Foundations in Maternal and Child Health course on August 3-8, 2020
- ┆ Friday 12:30 - 4:30pm seminars (*Dates: Aug 21; Sep 4; Sep 25; Oct 2; Oct 23; Nov 6; Jan 8; Jan 15; Feb 19; Mar 5; Apr 9 & Apr 23*)
- ┆ Clinic- and community-based experiences and small group assignments outside of seminar time
- ┆ Family Mentor Experience requirements (6 visits)
- ┆ 70+ hour Leadership Project on an approved maternal and child health issue/topic
- ┆ Attendance at the AUCD 2020 Conference on December 6-9, 2020

I understand and agree to the requirements of the LA LEND program listed above.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submission instructions and application timeline are included on page 6 of this document.

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Application Form

GENERAL

Name: _____ Date: _____

Are you legally eligible for employment in the US? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Languages spoken (including ASL): _____

Address: _____

Mobile phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

School email (if applicable): _____ Alternate email: _____
(Required)

Are you a... ☐ Student ☐ Professional

Discipline/Field: _____

Gender (in accordance with Federal requirements): _____

Gender identity (if not adequately captured above): _____

Race (in accordance with Federal requirements): _____

Tribe: _____

NOTE ABOUT ETHNICITY: *Hispanic* refers to the identification with the culture of Spain or Spanish-speaking countries. A person of any race can be Hispanic.

Ethnicity: _____

Are you currently an LSUHSC employee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please list any accommodations/modifications you need to participate in the program:

EDUCATION

College/University Attended _____

Program of Study: _____

Degree/Diploma: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

College/University Attended: _____

Program of Study: _____

Degree/Diploma: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please answer each question below. Type your responses directly into the form and submit with your application packet.

The LA LEND program focuses on providing inclusive, family-centered, culturally effective, and linguistically appropriate supports and services to children with ASD/NDD and other developmental disabilities and their families.

1. Why are you interested in becoming a leader, advocate, and/or service provider for people with disabilities?
What experiences have you had with families of people with disabilities?

2. What are your future career goals, and how will participating in LA LEND help to further them?

3. How have you acted as a leader in the past, either in official or unofficial roles? Please provide specific examples.

4. Has there ever been a person or event that caused a fundamental shift in your perspective or personal philosophy? Describe the impact the experience had on you.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The following materials should be included in your application submission:

- └ Completed and signed Application Packet
- └ Current curriculum vitae or resume
- └ Two letters of recommendation

All materials should be submitted to Nadia Johnson at njohn8@lsuhsc.edu by **April 1, 2020**. Letters of recommendation should be submitted directly to Nadia from the recommender.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

April 20	Applications due
April 27	Finalists are notified and provided dates for interviews
May 4 -8	Interviews are conducted
May 15	Applicants are notified of acceptance/nonacceptance

If you have further questions please contact the LA LEND Coordinator:

Nadia Johnson, LOTR
LA LEND Coordinator
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