

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

## Application Packet for Students and Professionals 2021-2022

Deadline: April 30, 2021

### What is LEND?

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](http://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/lend).

### Overview of Training Components

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

- A full-day **orientation** to LA LEND to be held (Wednesday, July 14, 2021)
- **Foundations in Maternal and Child Health** (August 2–7, 2021)
  - 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 20; Sep 10; Sep 24; Oct 8; Oct 22; Nov 5; Dec 10\*; Jan 7; Jan 21; Feb 18; Mar 11; Apr 8 & Apr 22
  - Concurrent clinical/field experiences (*dates TBD*)
    - \*tentative awaiting school calendar not to interfere with finals
- **Family Mentoring Experience**
  - Each trainee is paired with a family for a year long mentorship experience to better understand the “lived experience” of families of children with disabilities
  - 6 total visits 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 issue
- Travel to **Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2021 Conference** (November 14–17, 2021)

# Training Program Requirements

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

- Mandatory full day LA LEND orientation on Wednesday, July 14, 2021
- Mandatory week long Foundations in Maternal and Child Health course on August 2–7, 2021
- Didactic Seminars on Friday, 12:30–4:30 pm (Dates: Aug 20; Sep 10; Sep 24; Oct 8; Oct 22; Nov 5; Dec 10\*; Jan 7; Jan 21; Feb 18; Mar 11; Apr 8 & Apr 22)
- Clinic and community based experiences and small group assignments outside of seminar time
- Family Mentor Experience (6 visits)
- 70+ hour Leadership Project on approved maternal and child health issue/topic
- Bimonthly Policy & Advocacy meetings (virtual)
- Attendance at the AUCD Conference on November 14–17, 2021

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

**Applicant Signature**

**Date**

**Submission instructions and application deadlines are included on page 8 of this document.**

**\*See attached schedule**

# Louisiana Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LA-LEND)

## Application Form

### GENERAL

**Name**

**Date**

**Are you legally eligible for employment in the US?**

Yes

No

**Languages spoken (including ASL)**

**Address**

**Address Line 2**

**City**

**State**

**ZIP Code**

**Mobile Phone**

**Alternate Phone**

**School E-mail Address (If Applicable)**

**Alternate E-mail Address (Required)**

**Are you a...**

Student

Professional

**If Student, Current Academic Level**

**If Student, Current Degree Program (provide appropriate abbreviation, e.g., BA, MA, PhD, etc.)**

**Discipline/Field**

**Gender in Accordance with Federal Requirements**

Male      Female

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**Gender (If Not Adequately Captured Above)****Pronouns (can select multiple sets)**

He, Him, His, Himself

She, Her, Her(s), Herself

They, Them, Their(s), Themselves/Themself

**Other Set of Pronouns (Please Follow Format Above)****Race (In Accordance with Federal Regulations)**

White      Black/African-American  
 American Indian or Alaska Native  
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander      Asian  
 Mixed      Other

**Tribe****Ethnicity**

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

Hispanic      Not Hispanic

**Are you currently an LSUHSC employee?**

Yes      No

**Please list any accommodations/modifications you need to participate in the program:****Do you have a LinkedIn?**

Yes      No

**If so, please list your name as it appears on LinkedIn:****Personal Relationship with Disabilities**

Are you a... (check all that apply)

Person with a disability

Person with a special health care need

Parent of a person with a disability

Parent of a person with a special health care need

Family member of a person with a disability

Family member of a person with a special health care need

# EDUCATION

**First College or University Attended**

**First Program of Study**

**First Degree/Diploma**

**First Date of Graduation**

**Second College or University Attended**

**Second Program of Study**

**Second Degree/Diploma**

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

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

# SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The following items should be included in your application submission:

- Completed and signed application packet
- Current curriculum vitae or résumé
- Two letters of recommendation

All items should be submitted to Nadia Johnson at [njohn8@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:njohn8@lsuhsc.edu) by **April 30, 2021**. Letters of recommendation should be submitted directly to Nadia from the recommender.

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

Dates	Milestone
April 30	Applications due
May 7	Finalists are notified and provided dates for interviews
May 12-19	Interviews are conducted
May 30	Applicants are notified of (non-)acceptance

**If you have any questions, please contact the LA LEND Coordinator:**

Nadia Johnson, LOTR  
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 School of Allied Health Professions  
 LSU Health Sciences Center  
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