

## What is NM LEND?

The *New Mexico Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NM LEND)* program provides graduate-level interdisciplinary training. Trainees come from diverse professional disciplines along with family members and self-advocates and are prepared to assume leadership roles upon completion of the training program.

**LEND** is designed to develop knowledge, skills and experience in the following areas:

- Leadership
- Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities, with a Focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Person- and Family-Centered Care
- Research, Quality Improvement, and Evidence-Based Practice
- Public Policy and Health Equity
- Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness and Diversity
- Interdisciplinary Practice
- Disability Resources in NM

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants complete a short online application and submit an essay, their résumé, and contact information for two references. Graduate students submit their transcripts as well. Apply from February 1st through May 31st for the fall semester at:

<https://hsc.unm.edu/cdd/training-programs/nmlend/apply.html>

## TRAINING PROGRAM

*for Clinicians, Educators,  
Professionals, Graduate Students,  
Self-Advocates, Family Members and  
Community Leaders*



## What do LEND trainees do?

The program includes video-conference seminars on Fridays and additional activities throughout two semesters.

Our trainees use evidence-based materials, case studies, problem-based learning, experiential activities and projects to develop expertise in understanding, working in partnership with, and advocating with persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

The seminars are supplemented with other activities including two-day orientation, leadership and public policy workshops, required readings, assignments, family visits and a capstone project.

Trainees can expect to spend 300 hours participating in **LEND** activities and completing assignments over two semesters.

Most activities are virtual, but some travel to Albuquerque or Santa Fe for workshops or events may be required.

## Who is NM LEND?

### LEND Trainees

We accept family members of individuals with disabilities, self-advocate leaders, graduate students and practicing professionals from many disciplines. Past trainees' fields have included disability advocacy, special education, occupational therapy, social work, physical therapy, medicine, nutrition, nursing, speech-language pathology and many others. **LEND** Trainees live all around NM.

### LEND Faculty

The **LEND** faculty is interdisciplinary as are the trainees. The disciplines include: family, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pediatrics, physical therapy, psychology, public health administration, social work, speech-language pathology and other related disciplines.

## Benefits of becoming a LEND trainee

- Obtain current information about neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism
- Make connections with experts and resources in NM and in the **LEND** network nationwide
- Learn family perspectives and participate in family-centered, culturally responsive care
- Develop personal leadership skills
- Eligible trainees who have completed the **LEND** requirements have received a stipend of about \$4,500 (stipend is dependent on grant funding)

