

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is the national organization representing the national network of 67 interdisciplinary University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and 34 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs.

Every UCEDD and LEND program is currently providing autism-related services.

Fifty-two Centers provided additional details of their work in the field of autism in a recent survey of the AUCD Network. *This document provides a summary of these reported activities, but likely under-represents the breadth and depth of the network's impact in the field of autism.*

Providing Direct Services to Children and Adults with Autism and Their Families

- 31 Centers provide direct, demonstration, and/or consult services that are autism-specific and an equal number provide services that are not autism-specific but do serve individuals with Autism.
- 16 Centers provide community-based training or technical assistance services that target adults with autism.

Researching and Providing Expert Resources to Professionals

- 35 Centers provide training or technical assistance services that target professionals on autism-specific issues for children ages 0-21.
- 19 Centers provide training or technical assistance services that target professionals on autism-specific issues for adults over 21 years of age.
- 22 Centers are engaged in research or evaluation projects that are autism-specific.

Training a New Generation of Professionals

- 24 Centers currently provide substantial interdisciplinary training content on autism and in the past two years network trainees have produced 34 doctoral dissertations or master's theses on the topic of autism.
- 447 different autism-specific publications and products have been produced by the AUCD network in the last two years, including 171 refereed journal articles, 6 books, 32 book chapters, and over 200 other multimedia and public awareness materials specifically on autism. Additionally, the network has produced 544 products and publications that aren't autism-specific but address autism among other developmental disabilities diagnoses.

Recognition of National Excellence

AUCD network members have been recognized as *Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE)* by the National Institutes for Health with support for their work in autism:

- 4 Centers have been selected for the *Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART) Program*.
- 3 Centers have been selected for the *Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism (CPEA) Program*.

Some Network Highlights

In **California**, the M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California-Davis operates in partnership with the community to increase both clinical services and collaborative, translational research on the causes, treatments, and prevention of autism. Basic and clinical researchers at the Institute are conducting several NIH funded studies in genetics, environment, longitudinal observation to comprehensively characterize the clinical, biological and neurostructural phenotypes of children with autism. Additionally, the Institute has completed a needs assessment of telehealth and distance learning strategies for autism diagnosis and intervention and is implementing a training curriculum for early autism intervention at sites throughout northern California.

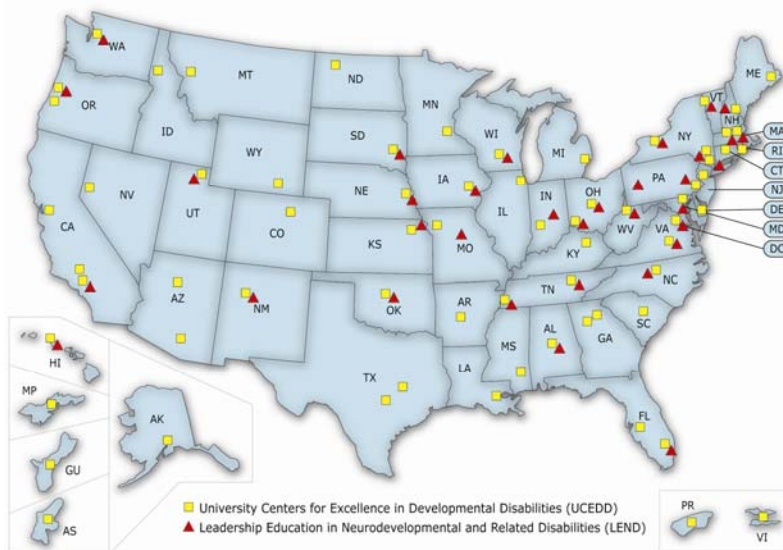
In **Illinois**, the Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois-Chicago has special expertise in working with minority families of children with autism, providing them training and support to help children with autism. Projects include a train the trainer approach to provide Chicago Hispanic families the best practices for managing behavioral challenges of children with autism and the sponsorship of a support group for family members. Another program provides touch-screen laptop stations, educational software, and integrative behavioral approaches in an after-school learning setting specifically designed for Hispanic children with autism. These culturally sensitive bilingual programs are filling a service gap for Hispanic children and families.

In **Oregon**, the Center on Human Development at the University of Oregon provides educational services, consultation, training and support to children with autism aged birth to five years who are eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Center provides these services in partnership with the public school district, in homes, child care settings, preschools and Head Start, and special education classrooms. The Center is also the regional training site for professionals working with young children with autism.

In **New Jersey**, the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School is collaborating with the New Jersey Autism Network in the area of faith and autism, working on three objectives: development of a resource guide for congregations and families to support inclusive congregational supports, sponsorship of one or more conferences for religious educators and clergy, and providing training and technical assistance to specific congregations on request.

In **New York**, the Rose F. Kennedy Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University conducts the innovative RELATE Program: Rehabilitation, Evaluation, and Learning for Autistic Infants and Toddlers at Einstein. Through an in-depth, multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluation, and treatment approach, children with autism, birth to preschool, receive a comprehensive intervention plan with specific recommendations for school and therapeutic services.

In **Tennessee**, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities provides clinical evaluation and diagnostic services for children with autism, including clinics for medication management and behavior management of children with autism.



The AUCD Network: A National Resource on Autism

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