

Request for Assistance

The Group Opportunities to Advance Learning (GOAL) Projects

Background and Purpose

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) [Regional Consortia](#) serve as a forum for smaller groups of neighboring programs to share ideas around topics, such as recruitment, curriculum, evaluation, research, and clinical/community services. Regions have also collaborated to conduct continuing education (CE) events, offer trainee exchanges, and joint training experiences. Although Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) Training Programs do not have Regional Consortia, they have similarly joined together to collaborate on an ad hoc basis in their regions. In some instances, DBP Training Programs have been represented in the LEND Regional Consortia.

To facilitate new opportunities for programs to strengthen ties, share resources, and coordinate activities, AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC) will offer technical assistance through the Group Opportunities to Advance Learning (GOAL) Projects. The GOAL projects are designed to support the planning and implementation of collaborative activities that engage trainees and faculty from neighboring LEND and DBP programs.

Based on technical assistance needs expressed at the 2020 LEND Directors' Meeting, these projects should focus on the following priority areas:

(1) Quality Improvement. This priority area can include, but is not limited to:

- trainings
- coaching videos and/or simulations
- data collection
- evaluation initiatives or quality improvement tools

(2) Virtual Engagement. This priority area can include, but is not limited to:

- clinical engagement
- trainee engagement
- alumni engagement
- family engagement

Project Information

ITAC will offer up to \$15,000 on a cost reimbursement basis to each of the seven LEND Regional Consortia. Please refer to this [map](#). Both LEND and DBP Training Programs are encouraged to participate, but only one proposal per region will be accepted. Each Regional Consortium will designate a primary program site to enter into an agreement with AUCD.

Funds may be used for expenses, including but not limited to: faculty/staff time, expert consultation, stipend for a trainee assistant, speaker honoraria, meeting costs, and trainee reading or other supplemental materials. Funds may also be used to support or augment existing activities already

planned by the Regional Consortium. All funding will be subject to the availability of funds from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and there is no guarantee of additional funding in the future.

All project expenses must be incurred on or before June 30, 2021. Each primary program site may invoice AUCD any time (and as many times as needed) prior to August 27, 2021 for reimbursement of approved costs incurred during the project period.

ITAC will provide direct technical assistance to each Regional Consortium through the duration of the project period.

Eligibility

All LEND Regional Consortia are eligible for assistance through this initiative. It is highly encouraged that all affiliated programs participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of their respective projects. At least three (3) LEND and/or DBP programs within a region must partner per application. Please note that multiple proposals from the same Regional Consortium will not be considered. Programs should coordinate with ITAC staff to ensure representation from all interested LEND and DBP programs in each region and reduce duplication of effort.

Expectations

Each participating Regional Consortium will be expected to:

- 1) Designate one program site to enter into an agreement with AUCD upon approval of project prospectus and budget.
- 2) Designate at least one person who will be the activity lead and assume primary responsibility for planning, implementation, financial, reporting, and communication duties.
- 3) Ensure that all project funds are expended on or before June 30, 2021 and invoices to reimburse approved costs are submitted to AUCD by August 27, 2021.
- 4) Complete the project during the 2020-2021 training year.
- 5) Present on the process and outcomes of their efforts at the 2021 LEND Directors Meeting and at other times as requested (ITAC will provide advanced notice in those instances).
- 6) Provide a detailed description of the activity and/or resulting products for archival purposes on the ITAC website, in addition to dissemination to the LEND network via established communication mechanisms.
- 7) Complete a brief final project report (template to be disseminated to the primary point of contact for each Regional Consortium before June 30, 2021) and submit to ITAC by August 27, 2021.

Timeline

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
Issuance of RFA	December 18, 2020
Application for Assistance Due	January 15, 2021
Development of Agreement between ITAC and Primary Program Site	January 2021

ITAC TA Calls with Primary Program Site	January 25-29, 2021
Check-in Meeting with ITAC Staff	March 2021
Check-in Meeting with ITAC Staff	May 2021
Last Day to Incur Project Expenses	June 30, 2021
Deadline for Submitting Invoices for Reimbursement	August 27, 2021
Final Project Report Due	August 31, 2021

Requesting Assistance

Each requesting LEND Regional Consortium must apply by **Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11:59pm ET.** using the Google Form linked below. The form includes multiple short answers (maximum number of characters is 5,000 per question) and instructions for emailing a project budget.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/PoJoyXJmi6yCQ7h49>

If you have questions or need accommodations, please contact Jackie Czyzia at jczyzia@aucd.org.