

## Request for Application: Trainee and Training Director Stipend Opportunity Responses Due September 21, 2021

*This funding opportunity is limited to AUCD network members and is contingent upon CDC funding. Notices of award are expected to be announced by October 1.*

### Purpose

Through an upcoming single-source award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a selection of Trainees and Training Directors from the AUCD network members will conduct COVID-19 vaccine outreach with the disability community as part of a larger effort, ***Local Vaccine Outreach with the Disability Community***. Successful applicants will propose innovative message delivery streams and local modalities to reach people with disabilities (including individuals not connected to service delivery systems), their families, and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), with the overarching goal of boosting COVID-19 vaccination rates in the disability community.

### About

The uneven and inequitable rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine has resulted in access, accessibility, and confidence barriers to the vaccine for people with disabilities. AUCD is launching the next phase of vaccine confidence and access efforts with this opportunity to conduct *Local Vaccine Outreach with the Disability Community*.

The purpose of this project is to address vaccine hesitancy among people with disabilities by engaging Trainees and Training Directors to share vaccine confidence messaging and conduct outreach with people with disabilities at a local level. Collaboration with key partner organizations in the disability community to conduct this local outreach is encouraged.

Regional Hubs will engage with key members of the AUCD network to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine conversations among members, identify barriers to vaccine accessibility and vaccine confidence, share credible COVID-19 vaccination information, respond to misinformation, and share success stories and lessons learned. Trainees and Training Directors will participate in regional planning and update meetings virtually on a monthly to bi-weekly basis throughout the project period. Regional Hub leaders will then share out the Trainee experience by joining AUCD's national Community of Practice on vaccine confidence to share updates and successful practices to date. (Regional Hubs are supported through a separate RFA.)

## Goals

AUCD Trainees and Training Directors will conduct local activities to:

- support rapid implementation of innovative strategies to reach the disability community at a local level; serve as a topic leader for selected sessions of AUCD's community of practice on vaccine confidence;
- use AUCD's National Center on Disability in Public Health vaccine confidence (<https://nationalcenterdph.org/vaccineconfidence/>) and Prepared4ALL (<https://nationalcenterdph.org/our-focus-areas/emergency-preparedness/prepared4all/>) materials and messages locally;
- implement some of the tactics and strategies identified in AUCD webinars on COVID-19 vaccinations, such as provision of incentives for vaccination, facilitating small group discussions, talking with a trusted doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional about COVID-19 vaccination, conducting rapid needs assessment activities, and implementing accessible and accommodating vaccine administration strategies, clinics, or events; and/or
- conduct assessments to evaluate reach to the disability community at a local level.

Timely outreach using upcoming opportunities (e.g. holiday time with family, flu shots, etc.) to engage families, DSPs, and people with disabilities is encouraged. Engaging with the local chapters and affiliates of disability community organizations is essential for this effort. Potential partners include: The Arc, American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), Autism Society, Autism Speaks, Family Voices, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), and the Spina Bifida Association.. This list is not exhaustive and other creative partnerships with local chapters and affiliates of disability organizations is encouraged.

## Eligibility

All AUCD Network members affiliated with a UCEDD, LEND, and/or IDDRC in any state or territory are eligible to seek assistance through this process. Multiple Trainees from one AUCD Network member program or center may apply. Members of AUCD's community of practice on vaccine confidence are eligible to apply. Areas of low vaccine coverage will be prioritized.

## Award

Up to 40 AUCD Network members, either Trainees or Training Directors, will be selected to receive a \$5,000 mini-grant for a period beginning October 1, 2021 through September 29, 2022. No cost extensions may be granted and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This is a flat-fee award, with payments anticipated as follows:

- \$5,000 upon contract execution (on or about October 1-15)



National Center on Disability in Public Health  
*Public health is for everyone.*

Award funds may be used for (and not limited to) salary support, earned local or regional media placements, social media, or paid media placements like a radio media tour or social media ads.

A panel composed of AUCD and CDC staff will review all complete applications. Applications that leverage and build upon existing work to reach people with disabilities with vaccine confidence efforts are encouraged. Awardees must dedicate these funds to programmatically support local vaccine confidence outreach efforts.

### **Application Procedure**

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please submit all application materials no later than 5 pm on September 21, 2021 via this [Google Form](#).

### **Questions/More Information**

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Lauren Blachowiak at [lblachowiak@aucd.org](mailto:lblachowiak@aucd.org).

## Appendix 1: Application Survey (50 points)

*Note: \* means a question is required*

Email address\*:

Your name and position\*:

AUCD center name (UCEDD, LEND, IDDRC)\*:

State\*:

Discipline\*:

Do you commit to monthly short reports to share progress, strategies, and promote collaboration (format TBD, but may include short video, webinar, participation in Prepared4All Town Hall, or short survey to share updates)? Who will represent your project in this capacity? **(5 points)\***

### Goals\*

Provide an overview of your goal deliverables and a brief workplan for each. Use bullets to describe your work. Responses should describe who will do what by when. **(20 points)**

### Additional Questions (25 points)

Please share how you plan to use your existing partnerships within the wider disability community in your area/state to inform your work on this project. **(10 points)\***

Please attach any examples of your work in this area that would provide evidence of your expertise in the brief workplan that you have proposed. Include any existing dissemination efforts in the disability community to promote COVID-19 vaccine confidence, including the modes of dissemination used (e.g. website, webinar, fliers, newspaper, etc.). **(5 points)\***

Letter of Support of Director **(10 points)\*** Provide a letter of support from your program/Center Director which outlines your qualifications to conduct local outreach and how this stipend builds on and extends existing vaccine outreach efforts, including engagement with local disability partners.

If affiliated with a UCEDD, briefly outline how your work on this project will be coordinated with the CDC/ACL grant funding to promote access to COVID-19 vaccines for people with disabilities. (<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/partnership-cdc-increase-access-covid-19-vaccines>) (Not scored. Required for UCEDD applications.)