



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

2020 Act Early COVID-19 Team Leadership Roster

State	Name	Title	Affiliation	Email	Phone
AK	Carmen Wenger	Program Director	Help Me Grow Alaska	carmen@helpmegrowak.org	907-301-3321
AL	Tish MacInnis	Alabama Strengthening Families Coordinator	Alabama Partnership for Children	Tmacinnis@APCteam.org	334-271-0304
	Katie Prince	Help Me Grow Alabama Director	Alabama Partnership for Children	Kprince@APCteam.org	251-753-3933
AR	Angela Scott	Assistant Professor; Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician; Medical Director	The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), UAMS Kids First Program	ALScott2@uams.edu	713-392-3065
	Anna Strong	Executive Director	Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	annastrong.araap@gmail.com	501-626-5777
	Ann Patterson	Project Director, Teaming for Early Childhood Inclusion	University of Arkansas, Partners for Inclusive Communities	cap009@uark.edu	501-912-9113
CA	Fran Goldfarb	Director, Community Education Family Support Discipline Director	University of Southern California, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Children's Hospital Los Angeles	fgoldfarb@chla.usc.edu	323-660-2450
	Michele Rogers	Executive Director	Early Learning Institute	MicheleR@earlylearninginstitute.com	707-328-4706

CO	Eileen Auer Bennett	Executive Director	Colorado Assuring Better Child Health & Development	eileen@coloradoabcd.org	720-333-1351
	Alexandrea Murphy	Child Development Systems Integration Specialist	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	alex.murphy@state.co.us	313-402-8903
CT	Bethanne Vergean	Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance Specialist	University of Connecticut, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	vergean@uchc.edu	860-679-1501
DC	Yetta Myrick	Executive Director/President	DC Autism Parents	ymyrick@dautismparents.org	202-246-3793
	Alison White	Executive Director	DC Developmental Disabilities Council	alison.whyte@dc.gov	202-727-8005
DE	Brittany Powers	Interim Director of Health & Wellness	University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies	bblument@udel.edu	302-831-6839
	Cindy Brown	Education Associate, IDEA Part B Section 619 Coordinator	Delaware Department of Education, Office of Early Learning	cindy.brown@doe.k12.de.us	302-735-4295
FL	Alexandra Goldberg	Statewide Director	Help Me Grow Florida	agoldberg@thechildrensforum.com	850-487-6307
GA	Bridget Ratajczak	Child and Family Development Supervisor	Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning	Bridget.ratajczak@dec.al.ga.gov	770-359-5547
	Brian Barger	Assistant Professor-Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Director of Research and Evaluation at Center for Leadership in Disability	School of Public Health, Georgia State University	bbarger1@gsu.edu	919-259-3206

GU	Elaine Eclavea	Early Childhood Consultant	Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services; University of Guam - Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service	eeclavea@gmail.com	671-483-4578
	Vera Blaz	Project Coordinator, Training Associate	University of Guam - Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service	vera.blaz@guamcedders.org	671-735-2465
HI	Jeffrey Okamoto	Faculty, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician	University of Hawaii at Manoa	jokamoto@hawaii.edu	808-953-7365
	Keiko Nitta	Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinator	Family Health Services Division, Hawaii State Department of Health	keiko.nitta@doh.hawaii.gov	808-733-9079
IA	Rachell Swanson-Holm	Program Coordinator	Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program, University of Iowa Division of Child & Community Health	rachell-swanson-holm@uiowa.edu	515-955-8326
ID	Melissa Crist	IdahoSTARS Director of Programs	University of Idaho, Center on Disabilities and Human Development	mcrist@uidaho.edu	208-885-6000
	Noreen Womack	Pediatrician, American Academy of Pediatrics Early Childhood Chapter Champion	St. Luke's School Based Clinics	noreen@slhs.org	208-342-8595

IL	Caroline Roestel	Nurse Care Manager & ECHO Autism Coordinator	Advocate Children's Hospital	caroline.roestel@aah.org	773-296-7340
IN	Stephan Viehweg	Associate Director	Riley Child Development Center, Indiana LEND	sviehweg@iu.edu	317-944-4846
KY	Christine Hausman	Content Coordinator, Child Care Aware	Human Development Institute at University of Kentucky	christine.hausman@uky.edu	859-257-2078
	Mary Howard	Early Childhood Function Director	Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky	mary.howard@uky.edu	859-257-0786
LA	Fiona Ritchey	Early Childhood Systems Strategy Manager	Louisiana Bureau of Family Health, Office of Public Health, Louisiana Department of Health	Fiona.Ritchey@la.gov	703-945-2118
	Laura Thornton	Developmental Screening Coordinator	Louisiana Bureau of Family Health Office of Public Health Louisiana Department of Health	Laura.Thornton@la.gov	225-342-9500
MA	Kate Barlow	Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy	American International College	kate.barlow@aic.edu	757-880-6713
MD	Rachel Demma	Director of Early Childhood Systems Development	Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood	rachel.demma@maryland.gov	410-767-0339
	Rene Averitt-Sanzone	Executive Director	The Parents' Place of MD	rene@ppmd.org	410-768-9100 ext 101
	Mai Hall	Early Childhood Specialist	The Parents' Place of Maryland	mai@ppmd.org	410-768-9100 ext 111
	Kathy Schiaffino	Parent Educator	The Parents' Place of Maryland	kathy@ppmd.org	443-757-7052

MN	Jennifer Hall-Lande	Community Researcher, Psychologist, LEND Faculty	University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development, Institute on Community Integration	hall0440@umn.edu	612-626-1721
MS	Leslie LaVergne	Emphasis Area Director, Wellness Programs	Institute for Disability Studies, University of Southern Mississippi	leslie.lavergne@usm.edu	601-266-6225
	Laura W. Smith	Family Support Counselor	Institute for Disability Studies, University of Southern Mississippi	laura.w.smith@usm.edu	601-266-5163
MT	Kaitlin Fertaly	Evaluation Services Director	Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, University of Montana	kaitlin.fertaly@umontana.edu	406-243-4206
	Marcy Hanson	Nursing Instructor	Montana State University Nursing Program	marcy.hanson@montana.edu	406-243-2543
NC	Rebecca Pretzel	CIDD and UCEDD Associate Director; NC-LEND Director; Clinical Professor	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities	Becky.edmondson@cidd.unc.edu	919-949-6148
	Sharon Loza	Early Intervention Branch Head/Part C Coordinator	Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section N.C. Department of Health and Human Services	Sharon.loza@dhhs.nc.gov	919-622-1394
	Stephanie Fox	Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities	Stephanie.fox@cidd.unc.edu	919-966-5171

ND	Hilory Liccini	Assistant Director of Program Management	North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University	hilory.liccini@minotstateu.edu	701-858-3008
NE	Kerry Miller	Assistant Professor, Department of Education and Child Development	Munroe Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center	kerry.miller@unmc.edu	402-559-5764
	Karen Pinkelman	Associate VP Early Childhood Programs and Administrative Educational Specialist	Nebraska Children and Families	kpinkelman@nebraskachildren.org	402-366-8374
NH	Betsy P. Humphreys	LEND Director & Research Assistant Professor	University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability	elizabeth.humphreys@unh.edu	603-862-4124
	Jennifer Doris	Education Consultant	NH Department of Education, Bureau of Student Support	Jennifer.Doris@doe.nh.gov	603-271-3750
NJ	Deepa Srinivasavaradan	Early Childhood Parent Lead	SPAN Parent Advocacy Network	deepas@spanadvocacy.org	609-665-2696
	Carrie Coffield	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Director of Preservice Training, Training Director of the NJ LEND Program	Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, at the Boggs Center UCEDD/LEND	coffieca@rwjms.rutgers.edu	732-235-9329
NY	Melissa Passarelli	Director of Programs	Docs for Tots	melissa@docsfortots.org	631-662-3176
	Romina Barros	Medical Director of Trauma Services-GABI/Assistant Professor Pediatrics	Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Children's Hospital at Montefiore	rbarros@montefiore.org	718-839-7287

OH	Stephanie Weber	Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Training Director for LEND/UCEDD	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine	Stephanie.weber@cchmc.org	513-803-3630
	Ilka Riddle	Associate Professor; Director, University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center/University of Cincinnati College of Medicine	ilka.riddle@cchmc.org	513-803-3620
	Andrea Witwer	Associate Professor; Assistant Professor - Clinical, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Nisonger Center	The Ohio State University	Andrea.Witwer@osumc.edu	614-685-8721
OK	Bonnie McBride	Associate Professor of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, LEND Faculty	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	bonnie-mcbride@ouhsc.edu	405-842-9995
OR	Sherri Alderman	Adjunct Faculty, AAP Early Childhood Champion, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, Oregon Help Me Grow Physician Champion	Portland State University	sherri.alderman23@gmail.com	505-710-3907
	Rachel Elliot	Early Childhood Specialist/Adjunct Faculty	Oregon Child Development Coalition/Portland State University	rachel.elliott@ocdc.net	971-224-1064
PR	Dulce del Rio-Pineda	Coordinator	Project Launch Culebra	dulceculebra@gmail.com	787-413-3436
	Nancy Nieves Munoz	Educator, Children with Special Medical Needs Division	Puerto Rico Department of Health	nancy.nieves@salud.pr.gov	787-615-4783

SC	Lorraine Cragan-Sullivan	Acting Team Lead & Program Coordinator	Help Me Grow South Carolina	Lcragansullivan@helpmegrowsc.org	864-546-8345
SD	Lisa Sanderson	Project Director, Family to Family Health Information Center	South Dakota Parent Connection	lsanderson@sdparent.org	605-361-3171
TN	Toni Whitaker	Professor of Pediatrics and the Division Chief in Developmental Pediatrics/LEND Program Director	University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital/UT Center for Developmental Disabilities	twhitak1@uthsc.edu	901-448-6511
TX	Laura Kender	Chief of Early Childhood Services	My Health My Resources of Tarrant County	Laura.Kender@mhmrtc.org	817-569-5301
	Claire Niday	State Health Coordinator	Texas Department of State Health Services	claire.niday@dshs.texas.gov	512-776-3060
	Stephanie Norton	Regional-Statewide Director/Director, Early Childhood Services	Help Me Grow North Texas/My Health My Resources of Tarrant County	Stephanie.Norton@mhmrtc.org	817-569-5722
UT	Janel Preston	Early Intervention Autism Specialist	Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University	janel.preston@usu.edu	435-797-1981
	Kali Ottesen	Program Manager	Help Me Grow Utah	kalio@unitedwayuc.org	801-634-7326
VA	Dana Yarbrough	Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives	Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University	dvyarbrough@vcu.edu	804-828-3876
	Deana Buck	Early Childhood Content Leader	Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University	deanabuck@gmail.com	804-827-0198

VT	Janet Kilburn	Early Childhood Director, Help Me Grow State Lead	Vermont Department of Health	Janet.Kilburn@vermont.gov.	802-865-1323
	Morgan Crossman	Executive Director	Building Bright Futures	mcrossman@buildingbrightfutures.org	802-881-1264
WI	Gail Chodron	Assistant Scientist, Community Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, Training Director- WI LEND Program	Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison	chodron@wisc.edu	608-890-0145
	Kris Barnekow	Associate Professor	College of Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee	krisb@uwm.edu	414-229-7151
WV	Jackie Newson	Program Manager, WV Home Visitation Program	WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health	jackie.j.newson@wv.gov	304-414-0648
WY	Wendy Warren	Program Manager, UW ECHO in Education, Early Intervention and Family Support	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, University of Wyoming	wwarren@uwyo.edu	307-766-2311

*Please note Act Early Ambassador team leads are designated in purple