

Act Early Ambassadors Roster

State	Name	Title	Institution	Email	Phone
AL	Tish MacInnis	Families Coordinator	Alabama Strengthening Families Coordinator	tmacinnis@APCteam.org	334-271-0304
AK	Carmen Wenger	Program Director	Help Me Grow Alaska	carmen@helpmegrowak.org	907-301-3321
AR	Angela Scott	Assistant Professor at the Department of Pediatrics	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)	alscott2@uams.edu	713-392-3065
AZ	Megan Wills	Director, Children and Family Services	Easterseals Blake Foundation	mwills@blake.easterseals.com	520-327-1529
CA	Fran Goldfarb	Family Support Discipline Director	University of Southern California / UCEDD Children's Hospital Los Angeles	fgoldfarb@chla.usc.edu	916-993-7781
CA	Michele Rogers	Executive Director	Early Learning Institute	micheler@earlylearninginstitute.com	707-591-0170
CO	Eileen Auer Bennett	Executive Director	Colorado Assuring Better Child Health & Development	eileen@coloradoabcd.org	720-748-7702
CT	Bethanne Vergean	Early Childhood Specialist	University of Connecticut, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	vergean@uchc.edu	860-679-1544
DE	Sarah Mallory	Assistant Professor of Special Education	University of Delaware, School of Education and Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)	smallory@udel.edu	302-831-8757
DC	Yetta Myrick	President/Executive Director	DC Autism Parents	Ymyrick@DCAutismparents.org	202-246-3793
FL	Alexandra Goldberg	Program and Training Manager	Help Me Grow Florida	agoldberg@thechildrensforum.com	850-487-6307



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GA	Bridget Ratajczak	Child and Family Development Supervisor	Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning	Bridget.ratajczak@dec.al.ga.gov	770-3595547
GU	Elaine Eclavea	Chairperson of Guam's Early Learning Council	Guam's Early Learning Council (GELC)	EEclavea.GuamELC@gmail.com	671 483-4578
HI	Jeffrey Okamoto	Faculty, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician	University of Hawaii	jokamoto@hawaii.edu	808-953-7365
ID	Melissa Crist	Director of Programs and Human Development-Idaho STARS	University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development	mcrist@uidaho.edu	208-885-6169
IL	Cari Roestel	Nurse Case Manager and ECHO Autism Coordinator	Advocate Children's Hospital	caroline.roestel@AdvocateHealth.com	773-296-5426
IL	Lori Orr	Director of Professional Development	Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development	Lori.A.Orr@illinois.gov	312-519-0615
IN	Stephan Viehweg	Associate Director	Riley Child Development Center, Indiana LEND	sviehweg@iu.edu	317-944-8167
IA	Rachell Swanson-Holm	Family Navigator Coordinator, Regional Autism Assistance Program	Regional Autism Assistance Program, Child Health Specialty Clinics, Division of Community and Child Health, Stead Family Department of Pediatrics, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine	rachell-swanson-holm@uiowa.edu	515-955-8326
KS	Peggy Kemp	Technical Assistance Provider, Kansas In-service Training System (KITS)	University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities	pkemp@ku.edu	785-383-4188
KY	Christine Hausman	Content Coordinator, Child Care Aware	University of Kentucky Human Development Institute	Christine.hausman@uky.edu	859-257-2078
LA	Fiona Ritchey	Developmental Screening Coordinator, Bureau of Family Health	Louisiana Department of Health	Fiona.Ritchey@LA.GOV	504-5682878
ME	Nancy Cronin	Executive Director	Maine Developmental Disabilities Council	Nancy.E.Cronin@maine.gov	207-287-4214



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MA	Kate Barlow	Associate Professor	American International College	kate.barlow@AIC.edu	757-880-6713
MI	Synthia Britton	Early Childhood Public Health Consultant	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)	brittons@michigan.gov	517-335-4327
MN	Jennifer Hall-Lande	Psychologist/Research Associate	Institute on Community Integration (UCEDD) and MN LEND, University of Minnesota	hall0440@umn.edu	612-616-3363
MS	Leslie La Vergne	Coordinator of Pediatric Evaluation and Developmental Services & Parent Navigator; Trainer	Institute for Disability Studies, University of Southern Mississippi	leslie.lavergne@usm.edu	601-266-6225
MO	Alicia Curran	LEND Family Faculty, Research Grant Coordinator, ECHO Autism Expert Panelist	University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders	CurranA@health.missouri.edu	573-884-7544
MT	Marcy Hanson	Nursing Instructor	Montana State University	marcy.hanson@montana.edu	406-240-7327
NE	Kerry Miller	Assistant Professor	Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center	kerry.miller@unmc.edu	402-559-5764
NV	Debra Vigil	Co-Director & Clinical Training Director, NvLEND, State Team Leader NvLTSAE, Director UCAN	Nevada LTSAE, University Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, Associate Professor UNR Dept. of Speech Pathology	dvigil@medicine.nevada.edu	775-682-7019
NH	Jennifer Pineo	Program Coordinator, Family Engagement Specialist	New Hampshire Family Voices, Pyramid Model at the Parent Information Center	jsp@nhfv.org	603-271-4525



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NM	Rachel Nowak	New Mexico Kids Resource and Referral Project manager	University of New Mexico Early Childhood Services Center	rachelmitchell@unm.edu	505-252-8744
NY	Melissa Passarelli	Director of Programs	Docs for Tots	melissa@docsfortots.org	631-662-3176
NY	Romina Barros	Medical Director, Trauma Services	Rose F. Kennedy Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center Montefiore Medical Center	rbarros@montefiore.org	718-839-7287
NC	Rebecca Edmondson Pretzel	CIDD and UCEDD Associate Director; CIDD Director of Services; psychologist	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities	Becky.Edmondson@cidd.unc.edu	919-966-4806
NC	Sharon Loza	Branch Head/Part C coordinator	North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program	sharon.loza@dhhs.nc.gov	919-426-4034
ND	Hilory Liccini	Assistant Director for Program Management	North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University	hilory.liccini@minotstateu.edu	701-858-3008
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OK	Bonnie McBride	Associate Professor, LEND Faculty	University of OK Health Sciences Center, Department of Pediatrics	bonnie-mcbride@ouhsc.edu	405-271-5700 ext. 45145
OR	Sherri Alderman	Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, AAP Chapter Child Care Contact	Oregon Pediatric Society	sherri.alderman23@gmail.com	971-280-2710
PA	Ilecia Voughs	Family Support Consultant	Pennsylvania Office of Child Development & Early Learning's (OCDEL) Home Visiting & Family Support Program	ivoughs@pattan.net	717-329-9649



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SD	Lisa Sanderson	Project Director, Family to Family Health Information Center	South Dakota Parent Connection	lsanderson@sdparent.org	605-361-3171
TN	Toni Whitaker	Co-Chair, TN Autism Summit Team LEND Director, Associate Professor Pediatrics, Developmental Pediatrician, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	University of TN Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities Interim Division Chief Developmental Pediatrics, University of TN Health Science Center, College of Medicine	twhitaker@uthsc.edu	901-448-3043
TX	Laura Kender	Chief of Early Childhood Services	My Health My Resources of Tarrant County	laura.kender@mhmrtc.org	817-569-5301
TX	Claire Niday	State Child Health Coordinator	Texas Department of State Health Services	claire.niday@dshs.texas.gov	512-776-3060
US Virgin Islands	Karen Harris Brown	Associate Director, VI UCEDD and Dean and Associate Professor of Education	University of the Virgin Islands, Speech-Language Pathologist, Schneider Regional Medical Center	karen.brown@uvi.edu	404-797-1004 Or 340-693-1173
US Virgin Islands	Leone Rohr	Executive Director	Parents Empowering Parents Disability Center, Inc.	leonerohr@gmail.com	340-244-2400
UT	Janel Preston	Early Intervention Autism Specialist	Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University	janel.preston@usu.edu	435-797-7165
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WI	Kris Barnekow	Infant Family Specialist & Assistant Professor	University of Wisconsin	krisb@uwm.edu	414-229-7151
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