



LEND / ITAC Overview

New UCEDD Director's Orientation

March 24, 2015



What is LEND?

Leadership **E**ducation in **N**eurodevelopmental and Related **D**isabilities

- MCHB-funded program that prepares trainees from a **wide variety of professional disciplines** to assume leadership roles in the delivery of services to children with autism and other NDDs in: (1) clinical practice, (2) research, and (3) public policy



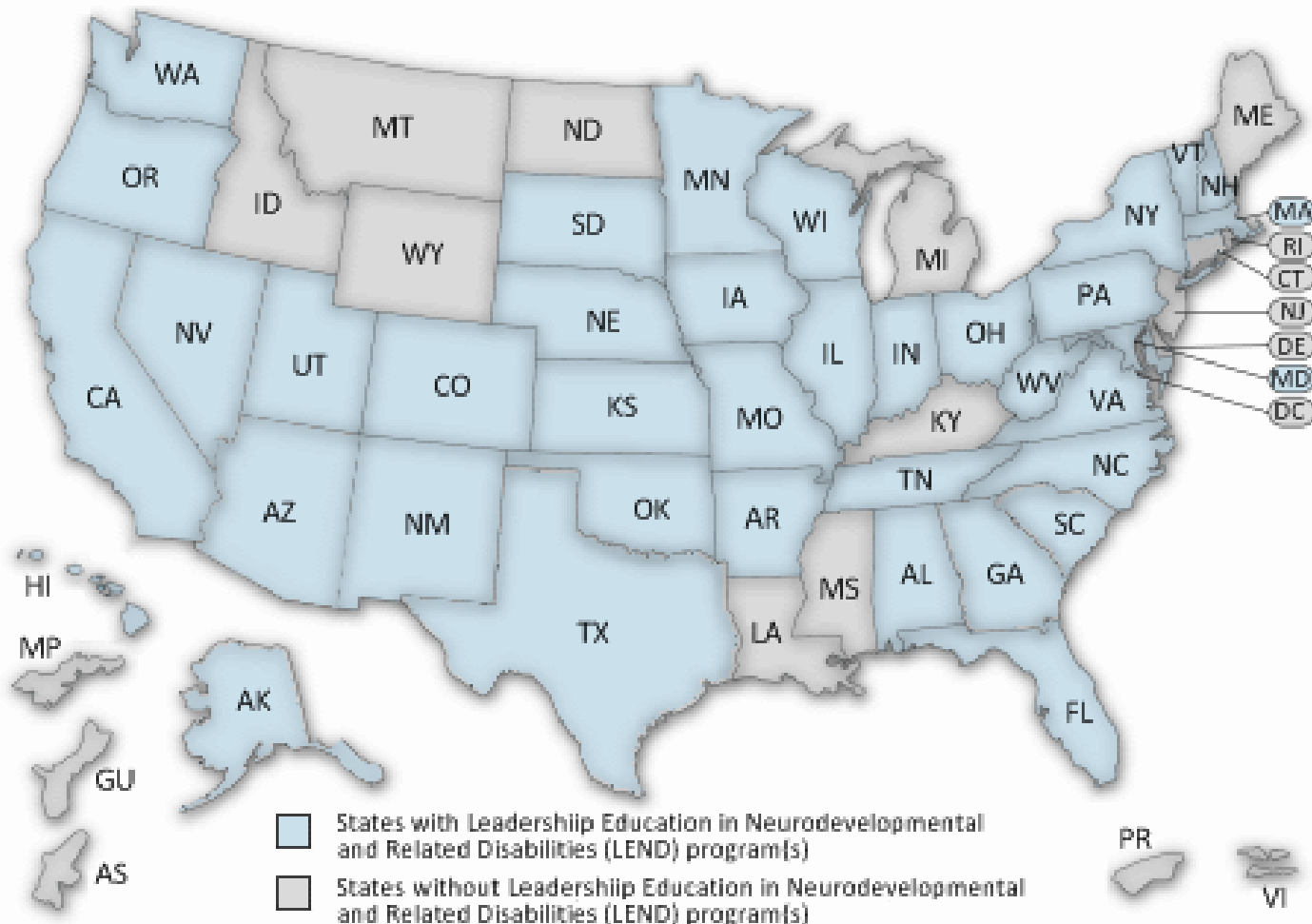
What is LEND?

Public Health
Nutrition
Nursing SLP
Genetics OT
Health Administration
Audiology Psychology
Pediatrics Social Work
Family PT
Dentistry
Self-Advocacy

- 43 programs at universities and hospitals in 39 states
- 26 programs operate within a UCEDD
- \$28 million in total grants and over 3,000 long-term trainees per year



What is LEND?





LEND Objectives

- Advance the knowledge and skills of child health professionals to improve care delivery systems
- Provide high-quality interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services from state and local agencies, private providers, and communities





LEND Objectives

- Provide health professionals with skills that foster community-based partnerships
- Promote innovative practices to enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships





What is ITAC?

Interdisciplinary **T**echnical **A**ssistance **C**enter on Autism and Developmental Disabilities

- Funded by the **Autism CARES** (formerly “Combating Autism”) legislation of 2014
- The primary goal is to increase the number of interdisciplinary professionals who are able to identify, assess, diagnose, and serve children with ASDs and other developmental disabilities



What is ITAC?

- AUCD provides **technical assistance** to the national network of LEND and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) training programs through this cooperative agreement with HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- Guided by a **steering committee** of LEND and DBP program directors from across the country





Technical Assistance

- **Manage** in-person and virtual meetings, trainings, topical work groups (e.g. genetics, audiology), special interest groups, and quality improvement initiatives
- **Develop** web content, informational materials, training and technical materials, and other publications and resource to meet grantee needs
- **Collect** project evaluation data and facilitate grantee progress reporting
- **Serve** as consultants on MCHB site visits



Technical Assistance

- Respond to requests for information and assistance from programs, federal project officers, and other partners
- Represent AUCD and the cooperative agreement on advisory groups and at meetings / conferences
- Support the network of state-based “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” campaign ambassadors in partnership with CDC
- Collaborate with government agencies and other disability organizations around mutual goals



TA Example #1: Project Support

- Through a competitive application process, AUCD selected five LENDs to receive up to \$7,000 in funding to address priority TA needs, including: (1) trainee diversity, and (2) support and inclusion of family members



The LEND / ITAC team is facilitating regular peer-to-peer learning calls, monitoring progress toward project goals, responding to grantee inquiries, and sharing results



TA Example #2: Network Enhancement

- A group of more than 40 faculty members are developing the content for a Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) core curriculum that will be customizable to each program regardless of format and levels of trainee knowledge

The LEND / ITAC team is providing financial support and web hosting, leveraging expertise to develop module content, and managing the rollout of a multi-site pilot



Network Resources

- [ITAC Training Toolbox](#) – browse and share innovative / effective training strategies on a variety of MCH and leadership topics
- [Developments Newsletter](#) – quarterly updates with news, activities, events, research, and accomplishments from Autism CARES legislation grantees
- [Events List](#) – brief summaries of relevant webinars, workshops, and other events



Trainee Resources

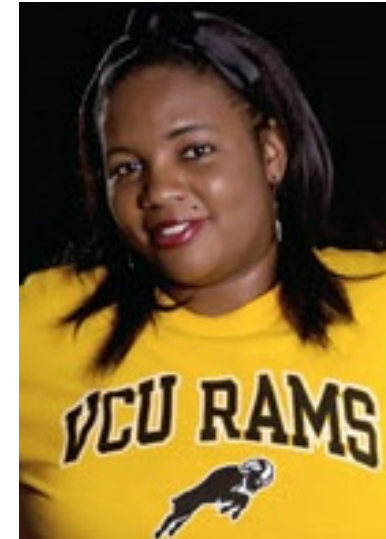
- **Virtual Trainees (VTs)** – work from home sites to enhance the UCEDD / LEND trainee network
- **Trainee Liaisons** – communicate regularly with the VT, disseminate information, and provide “on the ground” feedback
- **Trainee Listserv** – share information and facilitate ongoing dialogue about issues relevant to trainees
- **Early Career Professionals (ECP) Site** – timely articles and resources for young professionals in the disability community



2014-2015 Virtual Trainees



Laurel Geist, MA
Virtual Trainee
Ohio State University



Zipporah Levi-Shackleford, MA
Assistant Virtual Trainee
Virginia Commonwealth University



National Partners

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
- Autism Society (ASA)
- Autism Speaks
- Easter Seals
- Family Voices
- Got Transition
- Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IACC)
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
- National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC)
- National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
- Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)



LEND / ITAC Team



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LEND / ITAC Team



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