



Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders Program (MCH LEND)

INTRODUCTION

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Hawaii Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (MCH LEND) is funded under the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

In 1912, the Children's Bureau was established. In 1935, the U.S. Congress enacted Title V of the Social Security Act, which authorized the Maternal and Child Health Services programs and provided a foundation and structure for assuring the health of American mothers and children.

When the Social Security Act was passed in 1935, the Federal Government, through Title V, pledged its support of State efforts to extend and improve health and welfare services for mothers and children consistent with the applicable health status goals and national health objectives established by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Title V of the Social Security Act is one of the largest Federal block grant programs and a part of the Title V of the Social Security Act. It leads the nation in ensuring the health of all mothers, infants, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs (CSHCN).

The objectives of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is to support children with special health care needs:

- Support development and implementation of comprehensive, culturally competent, coordinated systems of care for the estimated 18 million U.S. children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally

- Support trainees, faculty, continuing education and technical assistance to train the next generation of leaders in maternal and child health. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary, family-centered, culturally competent care with a population-focused, public health approach.

The MCH Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities prepares future leaders in a variety of disciplines to improve the health of children who have, or are at risk of developing, Neurodevelopmental disabilities or other similar conditions such as autism or mental retardation.

The Center on Disability Studies (CDS) /Hawaii University Affiliated Program (HUAP) at the University of Hawaii received federal funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services beginning in 1994 to establish a long-term, interdisciplinary leadership training program for health professionals, the Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (MCH LEND). The MCH LEND Program is operated by the Hawaii CDS/HUAP in collaboration with the John A. Burns School of Medicine with cooperation of many departments within the University of Hawaii including: the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Speech Pathology and Audiology, School of Social Work, Department of Public Health and Epidemiological Sciences, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, and the Department of Psychology. Faculty from each of the above departments as well as professionals from the community form an interdisciplinary faculty team who collaborate in teaching and providing mentorship with trainees from a range of health and human services disciplines.

In Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Region, needs are reported in the areas of prevention, primary health care, early identification, diagnosis, specialized health care, early intervention, and coordination of health care systems for children with disabilities and family members. Leadership is needed to build programs based on knowledge and principles of family-centered, culturally competent, coordinated, and comprehensive systems of supports and services. A major challenge facing leaders in health care for families and children with disabilities is the impact of managed health care on the health services needed for children with disabilities and families in the state and region.

The primary purpose of the MCH LEND Program is to prepare health professionals for leadership roles to improve supports and services for children with special health needs and their family members. Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are defined as children with disabilities or those at risk of Neurodevelopmental delays, including

mental retardation, multiple handicaps, and other chronic illnesses and/or health conditions. The MCH LEND Program supports a minimum of 10 advanced graduate students as “Academic Trainees” and post-degree “Community Trainees” seeking individualized training experiences. Features of the MCH LEND Program include weekly core seminars that feature “Family Focused Learning”; core knowledge in self-study modules; clinical practicum; community site visits; and program evaluation in clinical settings.

The major goals of the MCH LEND Program are:

- GOAL 1 **To develop leadership personnel** in Hawaii's health services (MCH, Title V, Public Health, primary health care providers) through interdisciplinary training that promotes family centered, community-based, comprehensive, and culturally competent systems of care.

- GOAL 2 **To provide continuing education** for health professionals in Title V and related service programs, agencies, and organizations that serve the MCH population to develop family centered, community-based, comprehensive, and culturally competent systems of care.

- GOAL 3 **To provide technical assistance** to State Title V programs to develop coordinated and accessible health care that promotes family centered, community-based, comprehensive, and culturally competent systems of care.

- GOAL 4 **To initiate and conduct research** that will advance the field to better serve and improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents with disabilities.

THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL AND RELATED DISABILITIES PROGRAM (MCH LEND)

The purpose of the MCH LEND Training Program is to provide interdisciplinary training for advanced graduate students and non-degree, post-graduate training opportunities for professionals in health disciplines to achieve leadership skills in maternal and child health systems with families and children with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. Advanced graduate students and health professionals in the core disciplines are eligible to be considered for MCHB traineeships. A range of health disciplines participates in the MCH LEND Program:

Core Disciplines		Expanded Disciplines
Audiology Dentistry Families Health Administration Nursing Nutrition	Occupational Therapy Pediatrics Physical Therapy Psychology Social Work Speech Pathology	Assistive Technology Dental Hygiene Disability Studies Law Parents/Families Political Science Public Health Special Education

All Trainees who are accepted into the MCH LEND Program are provided with opportunities to develop individualized training and mentorship with faculty in order to build leadership skills.

The MCH LEND Program focuses on developing leadership skills, interdisciplinary team skills, advanced clinical skills, and research skills. As one component of the program, students and faculty participate in a weekly 3-hour seminar that uses “Family Partnerships” to teach students about (a) clinical diagnoses, (b) state and community service systems, (c) family and cultural issues, (d) health care policies, (e) interdisciplinary team skills and (f) research-program evaluation. Additional components include clinical practica, research/program evaluation, and community-based activities.

Two types of traineeships are available, “Academic” and “Community.”

Academic Trainees are advanced, matriculated graduate students in the health disciplines. Academic trainees are expected to complete intensive training which includes a minimum commitment of 300 hours and completion of all program requirements in areas

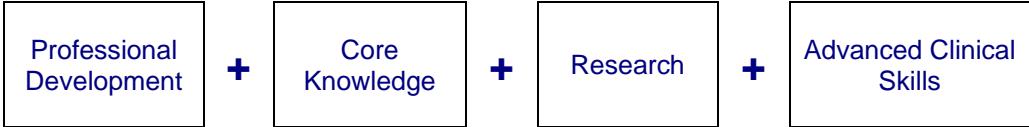
of core knowledge, advanced clinical skills, and research/program evaluation. Stipend support is generally available only to Academic trainees, based on availability of funding each year. The Academic trainee enrolls in the MCH LEND Program for one academic year. However, extending enrollment over a two-year period may be negotiated.

Community Trainees are post-graduate health professionals in health disciplines. Community trainees engage in an individualized program of training, which may include 100-300 hours in core knowledge, advanced clinical and/or research projects. Tuition support is available for Community Trainees, based on availability of funds for each year. Community trainees may receive reimbursement for educational and professional development expenses related to interdisciplinary practice serving children with disabilities and their family members. Typically, Community trainees are enrolled in the MCH LEND Program for only one academic year.

Upon acceptance into the MCH LEND Program, all trainees are required to complete an “Individualized Learning Plan” with a faculty mentor. The learning plan typically includes the following components: core knowledge and research/program evaluation and advanced clinical skills.

The curriculum is offered in a modular format. There are four main content blocks.

Curriculum Blocks:



The following Table summarizes the MCH LEND Program components:

Program Component	
Professional Development	Toolkit for Leadership Individual Learning Plan Integration
Core Knowledge	Service Systems Support Systems Public Policy and Advocacy
Research	Research and Program Evaluation
Advanced Clinical Skills	Advanced Clinical Skills Practicum

MCH LEND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Program Requirements for MCH LEND Trainees

Minimum Criteria

- Nomination and approval by department or discipline faculty
- US citizen or permanent resident visa status
- Advanced health professions graduate student or practicing health care professional
- Completion of basic clinical training as required in discipline
- Demonstration of excellence in foundation courses within discipline

Desirable Criteria:

- Demonstrated experience with individuals with disabilities and/or children with special health care needs and family members
- Demonstration of career goals to work in the area of maternal and child health with individuals with disabilities and families