Waisman Center Opportunities for Families

Family Positions with the Wisconsin Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (WI LEND) Program

The WI LEND Program is a 9-month (late August - early May) academic training program for family members, individuals with developmental disabilities, graduate students, and professionals. LEND aims to improve systems of care and access to services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through:

- Leadership development
- Education
- Skill building in interdisciplinary and family-centered practice

The WI LEND program recognizes that family members of children and youth with developmental disorders are experts on what these children and their families need to thrive. The insights and contributions of family members are necessary to improve systems of care and the participation of family members is integral to the LEND program. The program provides a variety of opportunities for families to develop their knowledge and leadership skills, as well as form relationships with others working to support individuals with health care needs and developmental disabilities.

WI LEND offers three different ways for family members to be involved:



Panel Presenter

Family members participate on a panel to help trainees learn about the lived experience of families as it relates to a particular curriculum topic.

Time Commitment:
Need to be available from 1-3pm on **one** Friday during the academic year.

Location:
The Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705



Learning from Individual and Family Experience (L.I.F.E.) Lessons

L.I.F.E. Educators (families of a child with developmental disability) host 2-3 LEND trainees for four visits. Visits take place in the family's home, at appointments, in the community, or any other place the family typically goes to help trainees gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity of families' lives and needs.

Time Commitment:
Four vists from September - March.

Location:
At least one visit in the home and two in the community.



Family Trainee

Family Trainees participate, alongside self-advocate and academic discipline trainees, as a LEND Family Trainee in the 320+ hour leadership program.

Time Commitment:
12:00 - 4:30pm on Friday afternoons, plus 1-4 hours on other days. The full 320+ hours training program occurs over the academic year.

Location:
The Waisman Center and other locations. A virtual team may be offered, see LEND website for details.

**** Each opportunity includes a stipend, if eligible.**

For more information about the WI LEND program, please see https://wilend.waisman.wisc.edu/ or contact Sandy Tierney at stierney@wisc.edu.

WAISMAN CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities