



# Self-Advocate Application

Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

*The Illinois LEND Program is funded Grant Number: T73MC11047 by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).*



*A collaboration between*

The University of Illinois at Chicago  
The University of Chicago  
Southern Illinois University- Carbondale  
Rush University Medical Center  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Easter Seals Central Illinois  
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

TO: Interested Individuals / Self-Advocates with Diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder or other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

FROM: Kruti Acharya, IL LEND Program Director

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 IL LEND Fellowship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017-2018 IL LEND Fellowship Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Enclosed please find program information and an application form. Adults with developmental disabilities, parents and/or siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. To learn more about IL LEND visit [www.illinoislend.org](http://www.illinoislend.org)

#### **Application Checklist**

- ☐ Completed 2017-2018 Self-Advocate application, including cover page
- ☐ Résumé/CV (informal is acceptable)
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation. Letters must be signed.
- ☐ High School or College Transcript
- ☐ Interview with one or more members of the review committee (*Selected applicants only*)

Please return application materials **by March 03, 2017** to:

Regina Meza  
IL LEND Project Coordinator  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, MC 626  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

*For further information about LEND or for assistance completing this application, please contact Regina Meza, Project Coordinator, at 312-996-8905 or [rmeza3@uic.edu](mailto:rmeza3@uic.edu)*

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1640 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608  
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## Self-Advocate Application Cover Page

### What is LEND?

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Interdisciplinary Training Program is a one-year training program. It includes both didactic (classroom) teaching and learning by experience. This is a leadership program that prepares future leaders to support and work with children with disabilities (with a focus on autism) and their families.

This is done through focusing on care that is appropriate for families and respecting people's cultures. LEND also focuses on public health services and policy change. It encourages people from many backgrounds to learn to work together. LEND is based at the University of Illinois at Chicago but works with other universities including the University of Chicago, Southern Illinois University, and Rush University.

For more information on Self-Advocates in LEND, please view our self-advocacy video: <http://ahs.uic.edu/dhd/lend/self-advocacy/>

## Training Activities

The LEND training develops skills in the following 7 areas:

- (1) leadership
- (2) public health
- (3) interdisciplinary clinical training and practice
- (4) cultural competence
- (5) family centered care
- (6) emerging issues and
- (7) research.

Learning experiences include classroom teaching, interdisciplinary group activities (people from many backgrounds working together; for example a group which has a family member, a teacher, and a social worker), systems and policy trainings, clinical screenings, care coordination, a research or leadership project, and faculty mentoring. Sessions take place over two semesters starting **August 2017** and ending **May 2018**.

## Program Requirements

Trainees in the LEND program are required to complete a minimum of 300 hours of classroom, advanced clinical, community, and interdisciplinary leadership training. The following activities are important parts of the LEND training program:

- A mandatory (required) LEND Orientation held on **August 25, 2017** (8am to 4pm)
- Seminars/classes every week (Thursdays from 4 to 7pm)
- Clinical sessions two times each month (Fridays from 1 to 4pm)
- Monthly meetings with your training coordinator
- Development of a Tailored Leadership Plan (TLP) to plan your LEND time and pick personal goals
- Participation in clinical and community training including multiple visits outside of class time
- Development of a policy project and final LEND project
- A mandatory poster presentation of final LEND project. The poster presentation will be at the Open House on **May 3, 2018** (10am-4pm).

**I have read and understand the requirements as listed on this application**

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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## **IL LEND Fellow Application 2017-2018** ***Self-Advocate***

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address (if different from Local): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you?

☐ Home Phone

☐ Day Phone

☐ Cell Phone

☐ Email

### **Demographic Information**

**Gender:** ☐ Male ☐ Female

**Ethnicity:** ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino

**Race:** ☐ Black or African American ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Asian  
☐ White ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐ More than one

**Are you legally eligible for employment in the U.S.?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Languages Spoken:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Current Education *(if applicable)***

#### **Current Degree Program:**

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Program(s) of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Degree: ☐ M.A. ☐ M.S. ☐ M.Ed. ☐ M.S.W. ☐ Ph.D. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Prior Education *(if applicable)***

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/s of Study: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned: ☐ B.A. ☐ B.S. ☐ B.Ed. ☐ B.S.W. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/s of Study: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned: ☐ M.A. ☐ M.S. ☐ M.Ed. ☐ M.S.W. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Employment *(if applicable)***

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Responsibilities:

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## Self-Advocate Status

Which disability category do you identify with? (Please check all that apply)

☐ Physical disability

☐ Autism

☐ Intellectual disability

☐ Sensory disability

☐ Other cognitive disability

☐ Mental illness

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to provide more information about your disability, please do so here.

You can also use a separate piece of paper: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you require any special accommodations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Self-Advocate Application Questions

**Directions:** On a separate page, please type your answers to the questions (you also may video or audio record your answers and send them in electronically). Each question can be answered in one or two paragraphs, but you may give longer answers if you wish.

1. Please tell us about your background and experience as a self-advocate.
2. Why are you applying for the IL LEND Program? How do you feel this program will benefit you? What are your expectations for IL LEND?
3. What are your goals for participation in the IL LEND program? What are your career goals related to self-advocacy? In your future, how do you hope to use the things you learn as an IL LEND trainee?
4. In your adult life, what is one of the biggest challenges you experienced related to your diagnosis? How have you handled it?

5. The IL LEND program is designed to support the development of leadership skills. IL LEND will help trainees to successfully participate in positive social change for people with disabilities.
- a. Within the self-advocacy movement, what do you believe are the characteristics of a successful leader?
  - b. What opportunities have you had to be a leader? What has helped you lead? What has been difficult for you as a leader?
  - c. What is your vision for the self-advocacy movement?
6. How did you hear about the IL LEND program?

**Thank you for your application!**  
**Deadline: March 03, 2017**