

Waisman Center Opportunity 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, students and professionals. LEND aims to improve systems of care and assure access to services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through:

- Leadership development
- Education
- Skill building in interdisciplinary and family-centered practice, research, evaluation and dissemination

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. Family members' insights and contributions are necessary to improve systems of care, 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 self-advocates and families as it relates to a particular topic.

Mentor Family: Mentor Families host a pair of trainees, for four visits, to help them gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity of families' lives and needs.

Family Trainee: Family Trainees participate, alongside self-advocate and academic discipline trainees, as a LEND Trainee. In general, Family Trainees begin as an intermediate trainee focusing on Friday afternoon learning seminars and Life Course Story groups but have the opportunity to participate in other aspects of the full 300-hour plus leadership training program.

	Panel Presenter	Mentor Family	Family Trainee
Time Commitment	Need to be available 1-3pm on one Friday during the academic year.	Host trainees for four visits between September and January.	Minimum Friday afternoons during the academic year. The full 300+ hours training program occurs over the academic year.
Location	The Waisman Center.	At least once in home and twice in the community.	The Waisman Center and other locations depending on your training plan.
Stipend	\$50.00	\$200.00	Up to \$6000.00 depending on eligibility and training plan.
Contact	Tim Markle tmarkle@wisc.edu	Sandy Tierney stierney@wisc.edu	Tim Markle tmarkle@wisc.edu

For more information about the LEND program, please see <https://wilend.waisman.wisc.edu/> or contact Tim or Sandy.