

# Iowa Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (ILEND)

## About LEND

Iowa's LEND program  
was established in **1993**

Up to **30** trainees from  
**17** disciplines participate  
each year

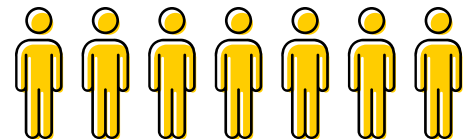
The Iowa LEND program is part of a national network of 60 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs across the country. LEND provides

interdisciplinary leadership training for graduate students, family members, and self-advocates. It is federally funded under the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (Autism CARES) Act, and is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). LEND improves the health of people with disabilities across the lifespan by preparing trainees from diverse healthcare, educational, and community disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by ensuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.

## How LEND helps

- Promotes expanded skills and knowledge in person and family-centered care, cultural responsiveness and accessibility, research, and disability policy.
- Fosters collaboration among different disciplines.
- Trains disability-competent care providers for individuals with autism spectrum disorder/developmental disabilities (ASD/DD).

For more information,  
see the ILEND website.



In recent 2-, 5-, 10 year  
follow-up surveys, former  
trainees reported that since  
graduating from the program:

**100%**

would recommend the  
ILEND program to others.

**96%**

have participated in  
leadership activities.

**100%**

have participated in  
interdisciplinary collaboration.

**91%**

report that their work relates  
to populations that are  
underserved or marginalized.

**89%**

report that their work relates  
to individuals with disabilities.