

HRSA awards \$28.3 million for children with special health care needs

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded \$28.3 million to 43 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) programs to help improve the health of infants, children, adolescents and young adults with neurodevelopmental and other related disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

LEND programs in communities across the United States prepare trainees from a wide variety of professional disciplines to assume leadership roles, ensure high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence, and enhance the ability of clinicians to diagnose, treat, and manage complex disabilities in youth and adolescents. The programs also promote culturally competent, coordinated care and integrate families in all aspects of training and service.

“Building on a strong history, LEND grants improve systems of care for those with special needs,” said HRSA Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N. “These programs have been instrumental in training leaders to meet the varying needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families.”

Currently 43 LEND programs span 37 states, forming a network that works to identify the special needs of children and families on state, regional, and national levels. The programs conduct continuing education activities, provide technical assistance and consultation, and develop and disseminate educational materials.

To see the full list of awards, visit the HRSA website at:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/110825lendawards.html>

September 2, 2011

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