



LENDCN Family Connections Mentor Training Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the LENDCN Program?

A: The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities at Children's National (LENDCN) Program is an inclusive training program that aims to develop the next generation of leaders from various disciplines and backgrounds that impact people with neurodevelopmental disabilities including autism.

Q: What is the LENDCN Family Connections Mentor Training Program?

A: The Family Connections Mentor Training Program, a part of LENDCN, is where a host family (family mentor/teacher) provides a LENDCN trainee (mentee/student) with an “up close and personal” view of family and community life.

Q: What is the purpose of the LENDCN Family Connections Mentor Training Program?

A: The purpose of this experience is to enable trainees to get to know a family at a personal level, to help them become more aware and empathic to the circumstances that families may encounter in raising a child with a disability.

Q: What is the time commitment for Family Mentors?

A: From October 2024 through May 2025, selected parents and caregivers of children/youth with disabilities will serve as family mentors. The family mentors will attend one-hour long orientation session on zoom, host three mentor sessions (at least one hour) with assigned trainees and participate in two one-hour group check-in sessions with the Family Connections Mentor Program Faculty Lead (in January and May 2025) on Zoom.

Q: Where can mentor sessions take place?

A: These experiences can take place at home, visits to doctors or with other health care professionals (therapy sessions), at school (IEP meeting, parent teacher conference), or in community settings where host families spend their time (sports, leisure, etc.).

Q: What experience and qualifications do Family Mentor candidates need to have?

A: A family mentor must be a parent/caregiver of a child with a disability, be a resident of the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia, and be willing to share their lived experience.

Q: Will the Family Mentors receive any compensation?

A: Yes, family mentors will receive \$500 for full participation (orientation, three mentoring sessions with assigned LENDCN Trainee, and two group check-in sessions). Payments will be made in December 2024 (\$250) and June 2025 (\$250).



Q: How do I apply to participate?

A: Complete and submit the interest form: <https://redcap.link/LEND-CN-FamilyMentorInterestForm> by Friday, August 30, 2024 AND attend one of our online meet-and-greet sessions before family mentors are selected to learn about the program. Meet-and-greet sessions will occur at the following times:

- Tuesday, September 10th 3-4pm
- Thursday, September 12th 7-8pm
- Wednesday, September 18th noon-1pm

Q: Where can I learn more about the LENDCN Program?

A: Visit the LENDCN Program webpage: www.childrensnational.org/LEND-CN

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: Email Yetta Myrick at ymyrick@dcautismparents.org.