

Letter of Interest Instructions for Applicants to MNLEND

See <https://lend.umn.edu/how-to-apply> for both the early submission and general deadlines.

Each applicant is asked to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) with their MNLEND application. Your total statement **should not exceed 4 pages**. It should be double-spaced and use a standard 11-12 size font and 1-inch margins.

Information to include in your statement of interest:

1. First briefly introduce yourself by describing your academic interests, any work, research, and/or community experience in disability. Clearly state your reason(s) for pursuing the MNLEND Fellowship in leadership and neurodevelopmental and related disabilities (NDD).

Next, answer the below questions succinctly:

2. What does leadership mean to you? What qualities do you think speak to your specific leadership potential? What areas of leadership do you hope to develop further in LEND? How do you envision LEND training to help develop qualities or tools for you to better society after LEND?
3. What do you hope to gain from participating in an interdisciplinary program focused on serving people, especially children and young adults, with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) and their families? Please comment on the importance of LEND's interdisciplinary opportunities for you, as well as how working with youth with NDD and their families integrates into your larger professional and personal goals.
4. One of the aspects of the LEND year will be to work on a project that would focus in areas of advocacy, clinical work, policy, and/or research. Please share which area(s) you would consider pursuing a project (realizing your idea might evolve during LEND), and include any specific projects ideas you might have interest in doing.
5. Goals for the MNLEND program include **12 Maternal & Child Health Leadership Competencies**: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/leadership-12.asp>: (1) gain knowledge base and skills in the Maternal & Child Health field and in NDD (2) self-reflection; (3) ethics; (4) critical thinking; (5) communication; (6) negotiation and conflict resolution; (7) cultural competency; (8) family-professional partnerships; (9) developing others through teaching, coaching, and mentoring; (10) interdisciplinary/interprofessional team building; (11) working with communities and systems; and (12) take part in policy change & advocacy. In about 1 page of the total 4 maximum pages, explain which one to two of the above MCH competency goals are the most important to why you seek to join the LEND program.

Please save your Letter of Interest (LOI) in PDF format prior to uploading it in the application system.

More information and to access the MNLEND Application system found here: <https://lend.umn.edu/how-to-apply>.

Other questions can be sent to Rebecca Dosch Brown, MNLEND Coordinator, at dosch018@umn.edu