



# Combating Autism Act: HRSA's Investments

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## **Goal of the Combating Autism Act Initiative (CAAI)**

Enable all infants, children and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities to reach their full potential by:

- **Developing a system of services that includes screening children early** for possible ASD and other developmental disorders;
- **Conducting early, interdisciplinary, evaluations** to confirm or rule out ASD and other developmental disorders; and,
- **Providing evidence-based, early interventions** when a diagnosis is confirmed.

# Three Program Areas

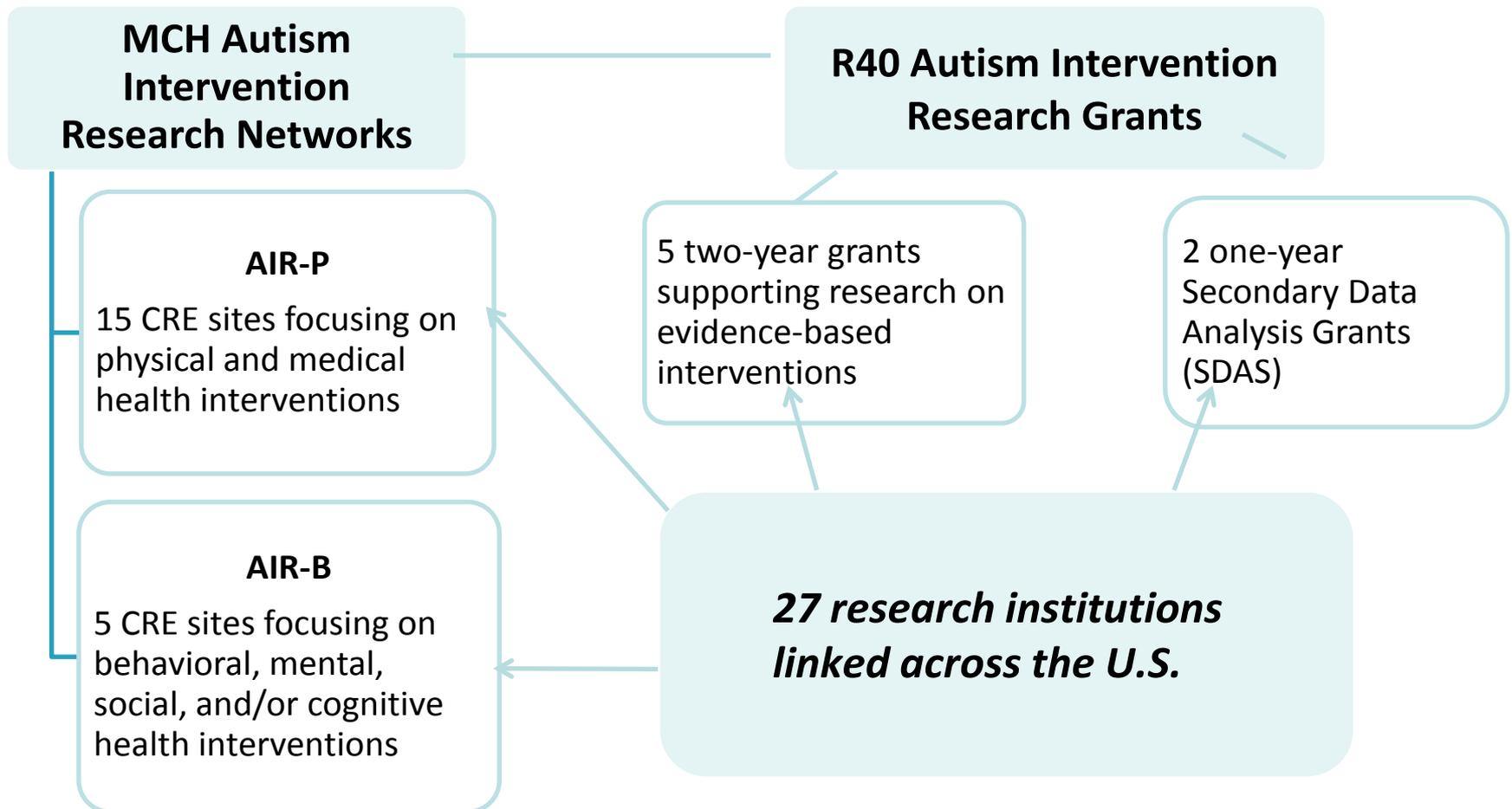
**Autism  
Intervention  
Research**

**Training**

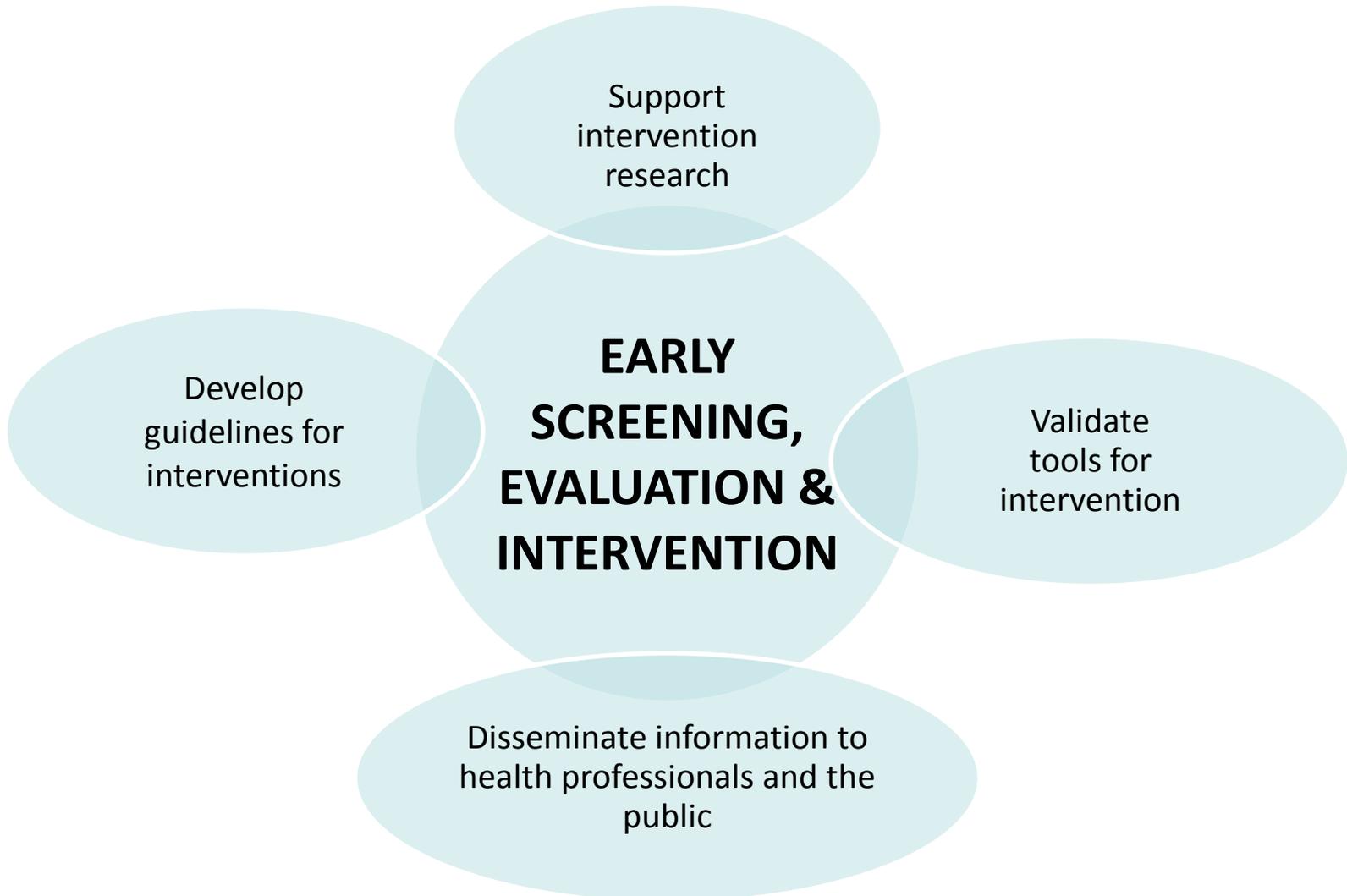
- **DBP**
- **LEND**

**State  
Implementation**

# MCH Autism Intervention Research Program



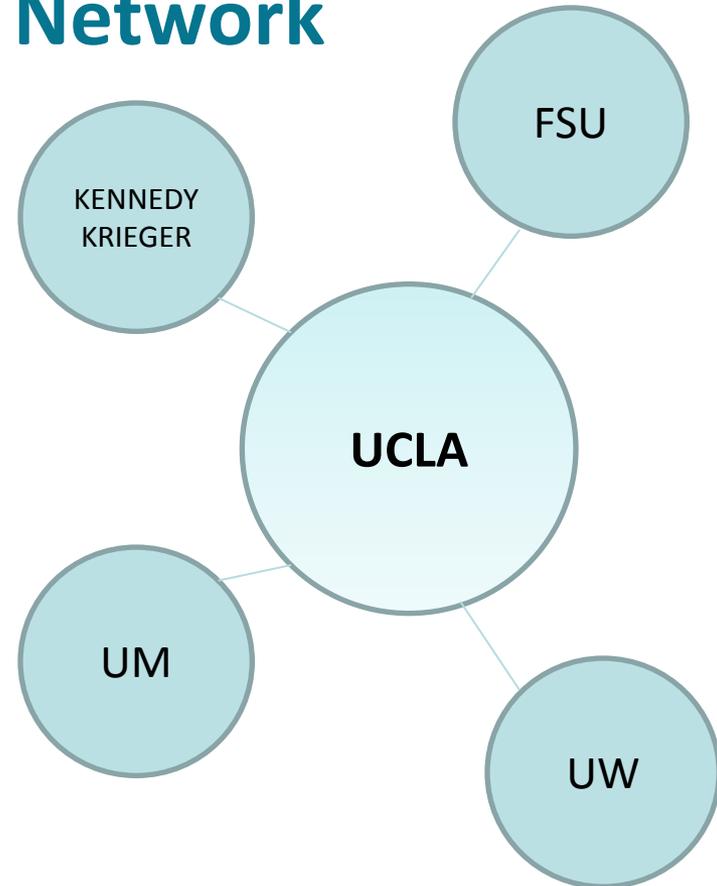
# Research Program Objectives



# AIR-Behavioral Research Network

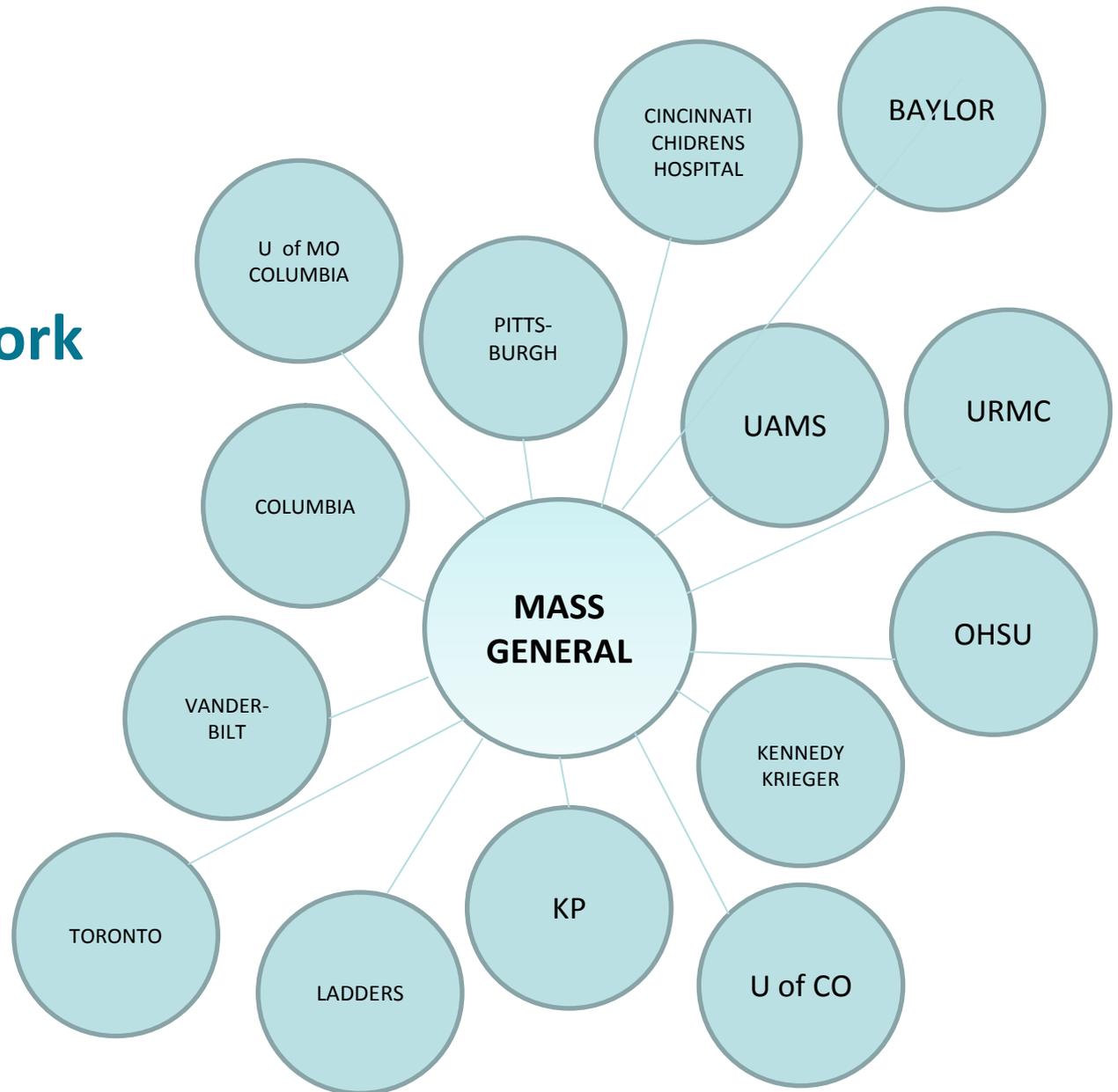
*Supporting intervention studies that:*

- Target underserved or underrepresented populations
- Focus on interventions that address the 5 core deficits in children with ASD
- Are conducted in natural environments
- Involve collaboration with parents



# AIR-Physical Research Network

- Utilizes the structure of the Autism Treatment Network (ATN) to carry out projects
- Link to active nationwide outreach and dissemination efforts
- Use of dynamic ATN registry



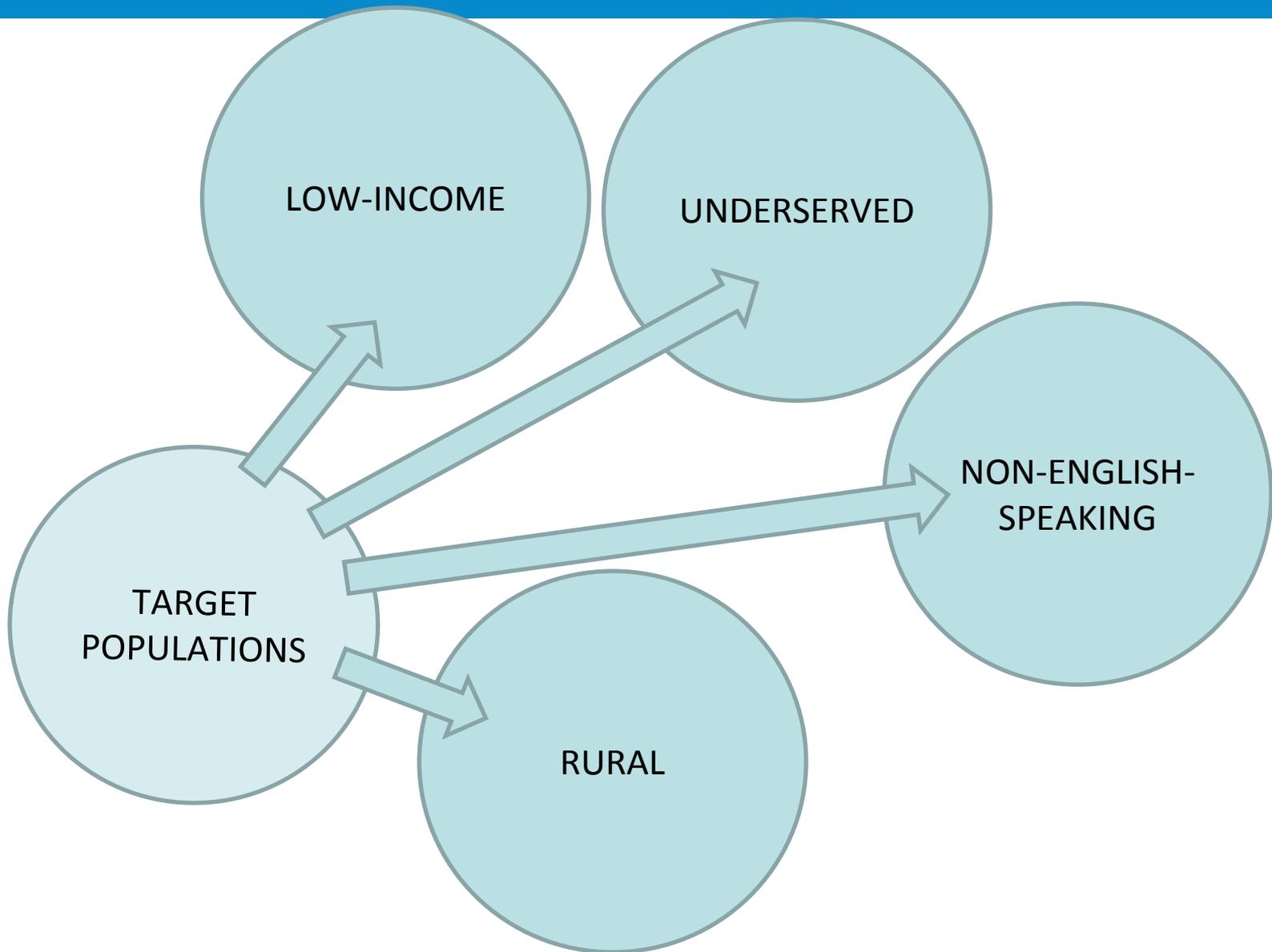


# AIR Program Studies: Areas of Research

## KEY TOPIC AREAS:

- **Gastrointestinal issues**
- **Diet and nutrition**
- **Sleep disturbances**
- **Medication choice and monitoring**
- **Social skills/connections including joint engagement**
- **Peer relationships and friendships**
- **Family well-being**
- **Transitioning to adult life**

# Target Populations



# AIR Program Accomplishments: Guideline Development

**AIR-Behavioral:** *Conducting a comprehensive review of ASD behavioral treatment interventions.*

UCLA

UCLA - Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health  
supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

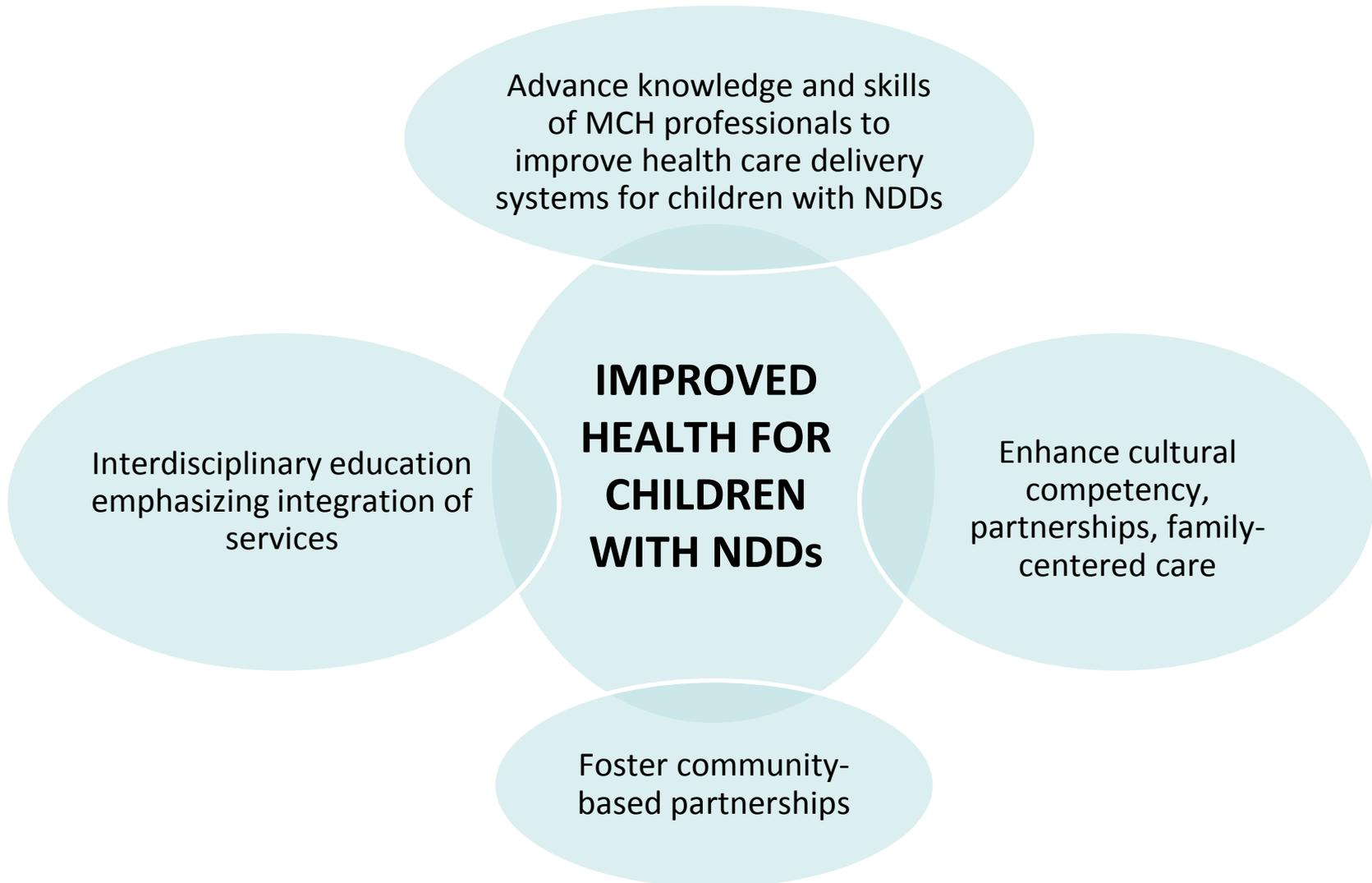
- Literature review and synthesis is complete
- Report sent to technical expert panel
- Plans to publish guidelines in a peer-reviewed journal
- Areas addressed include comprehensive behavioral programs, recommendations for communication and social skills interventions, and the top 5 priorities for future research



# Dissemination Activities

- **Public Web sites**
  - [www.asdweb.org](http://www.asdweb.org)
  - [www.autismspeaks.org/community/outreach/airp.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/outreach/airp.php)
- **AIR-B online knowledge base (Phenowiki; includes results from more than 75 published studies that link ASD research studies)**
- **Academic conferences**
- **Ongoing events with CREs, LEND/DBP programs and community-based organizations**

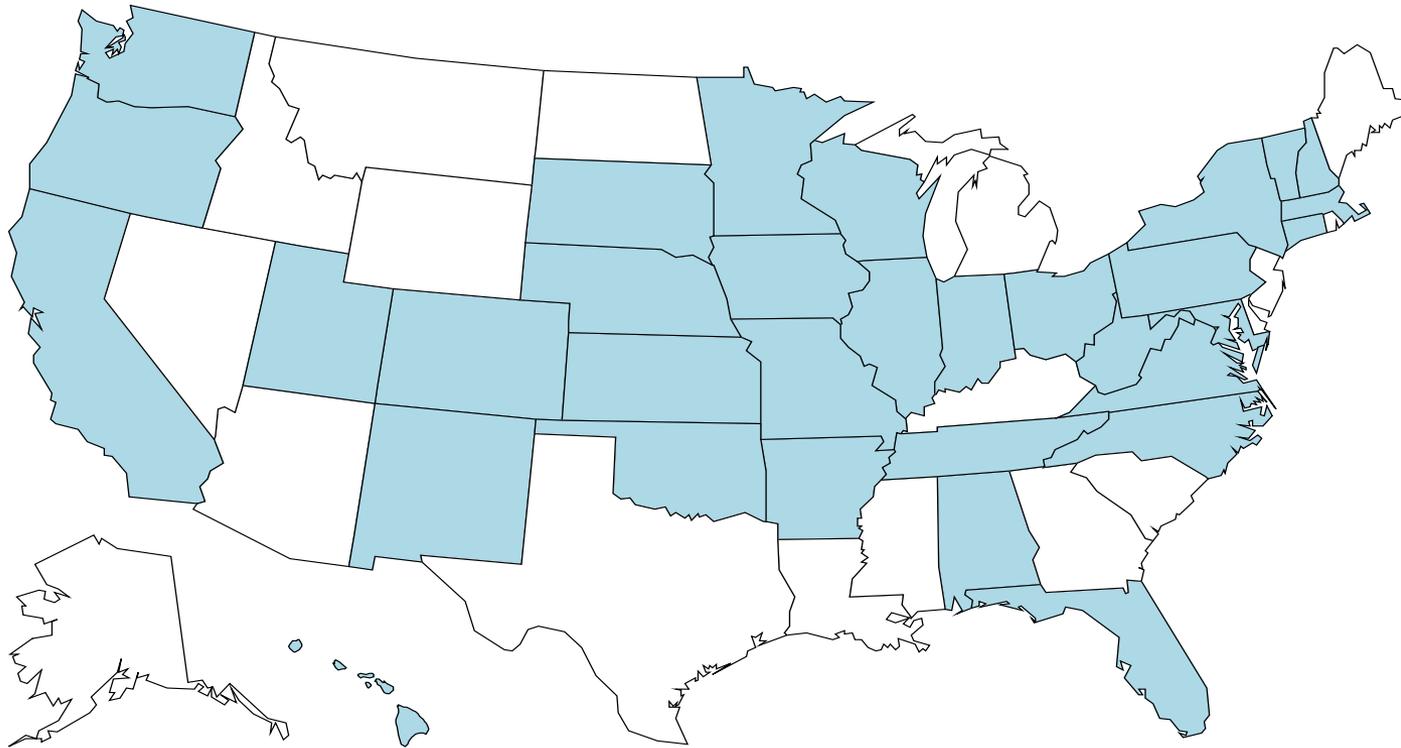
# LEND Program: Purpose and Objectives

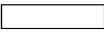


# Disciplines Reached

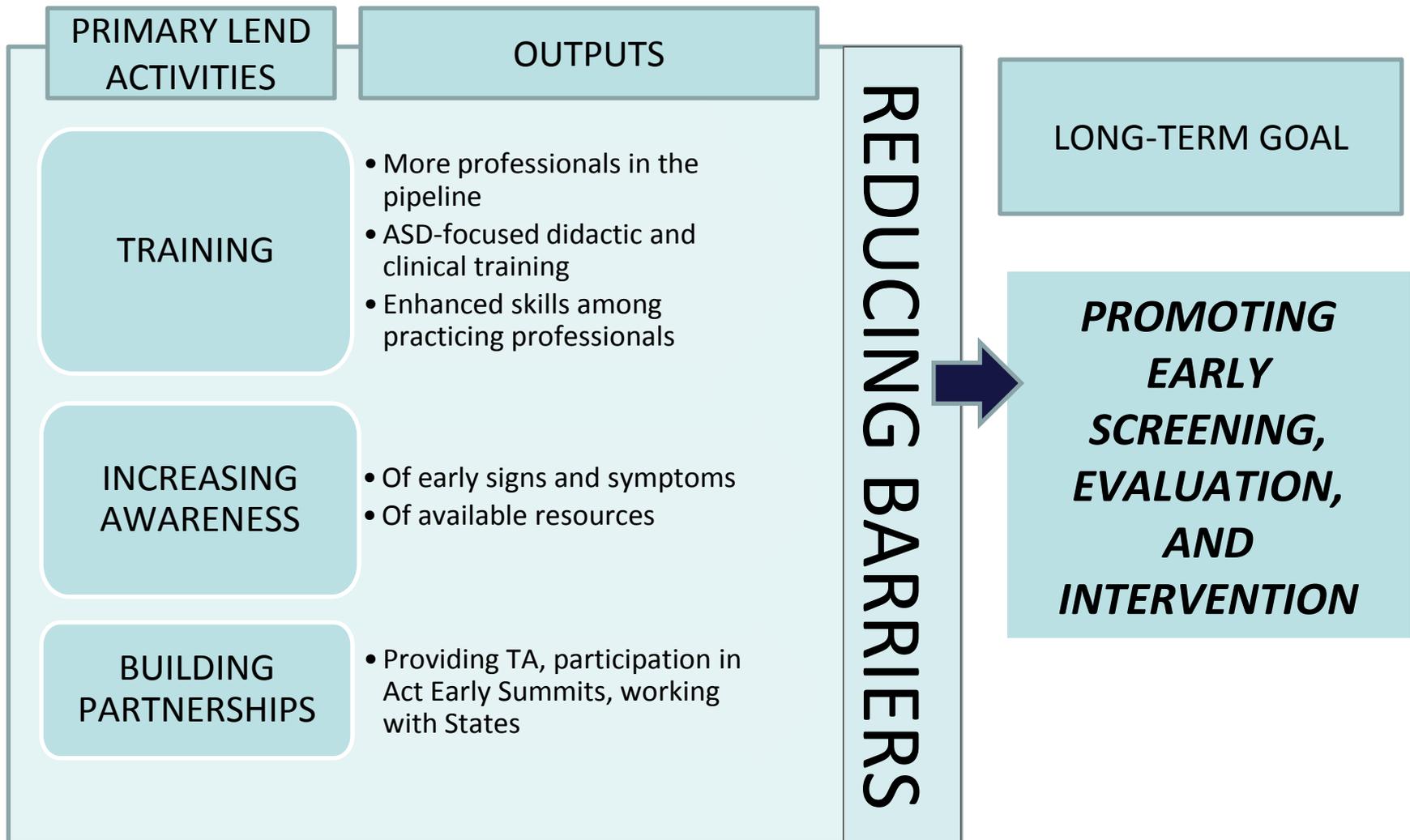


# LENDs Awarded CAAI Grants: FY 2009



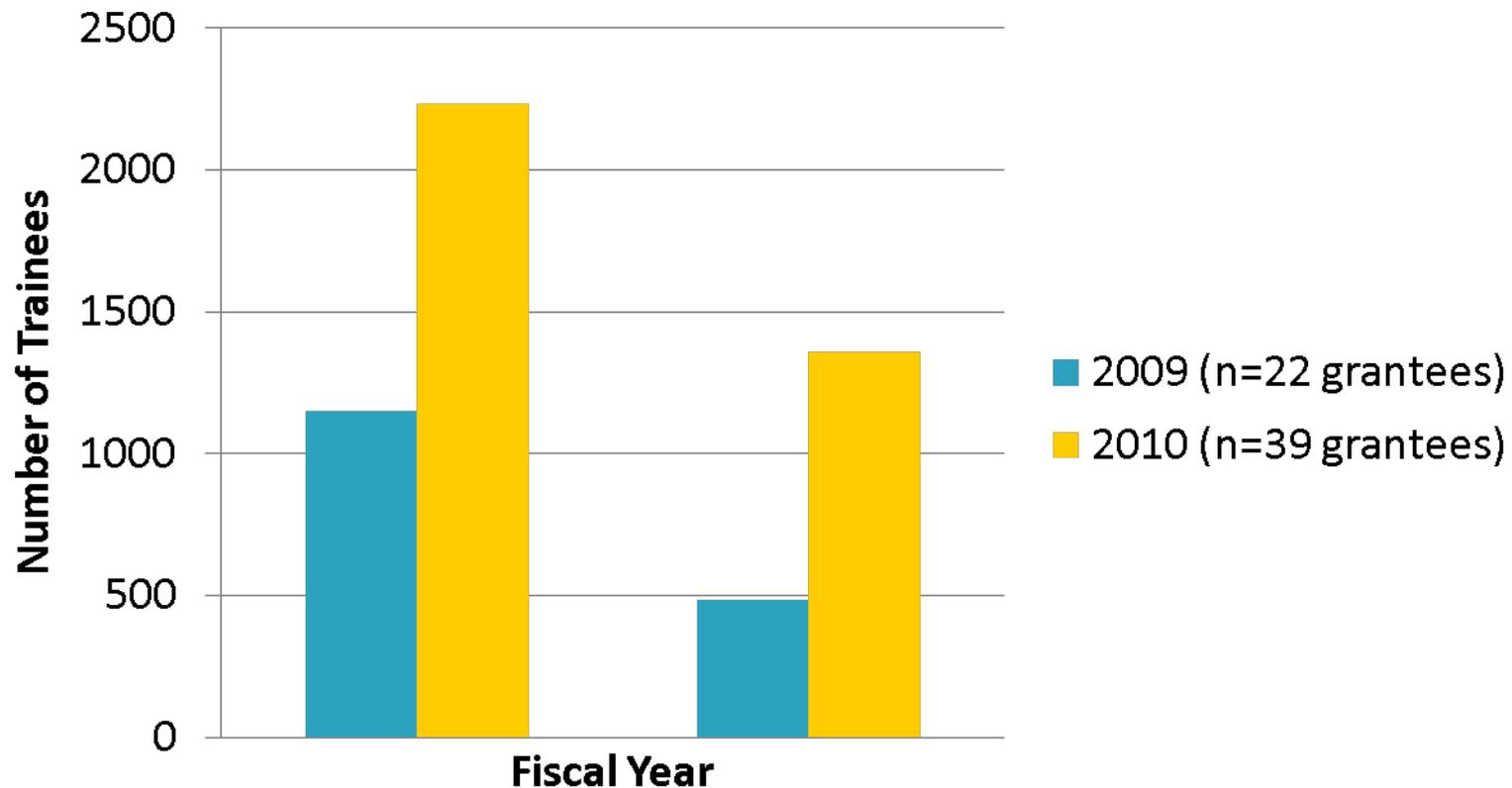
 States without LEND program(s)  
 States with LEND program(s)

# LEND Accomplishments and Long-Term Goals



# Training: More Professionals in the Pipeline

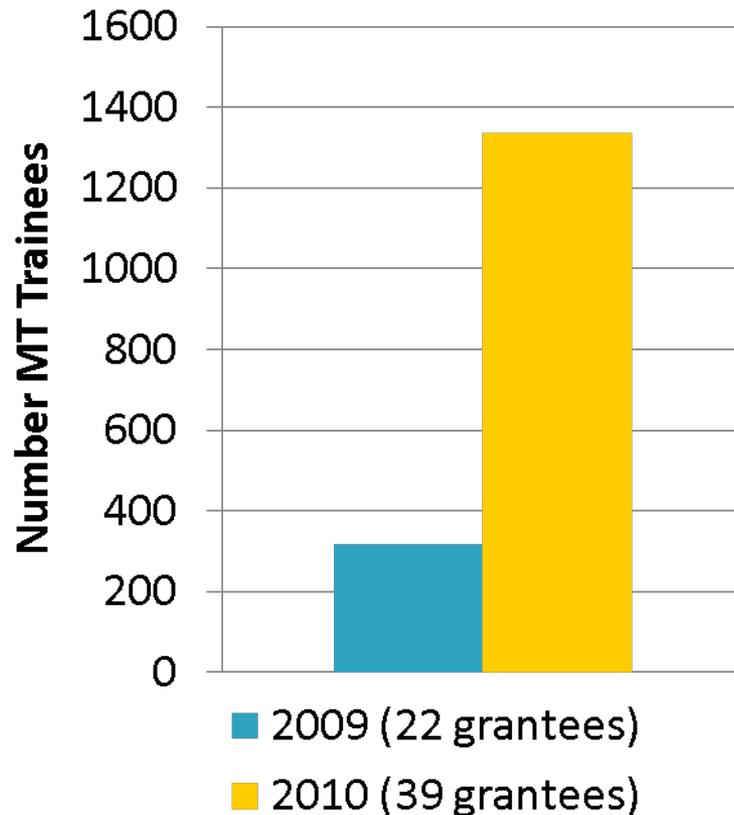
Change in number of trainees between  
2009 and 2010



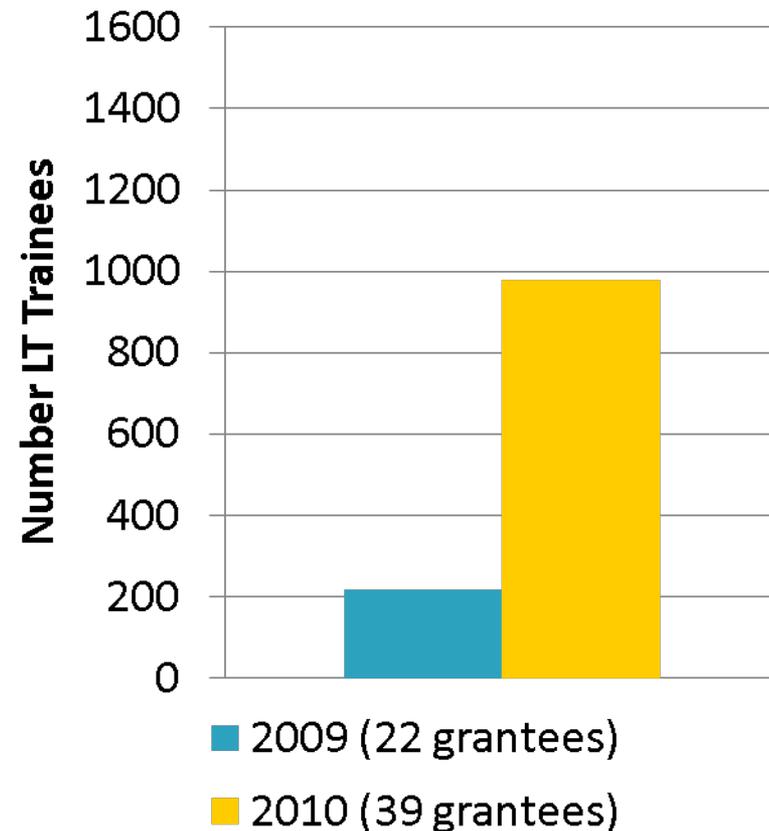
## Training:

# Increased ASD Clinical Training Opportunities

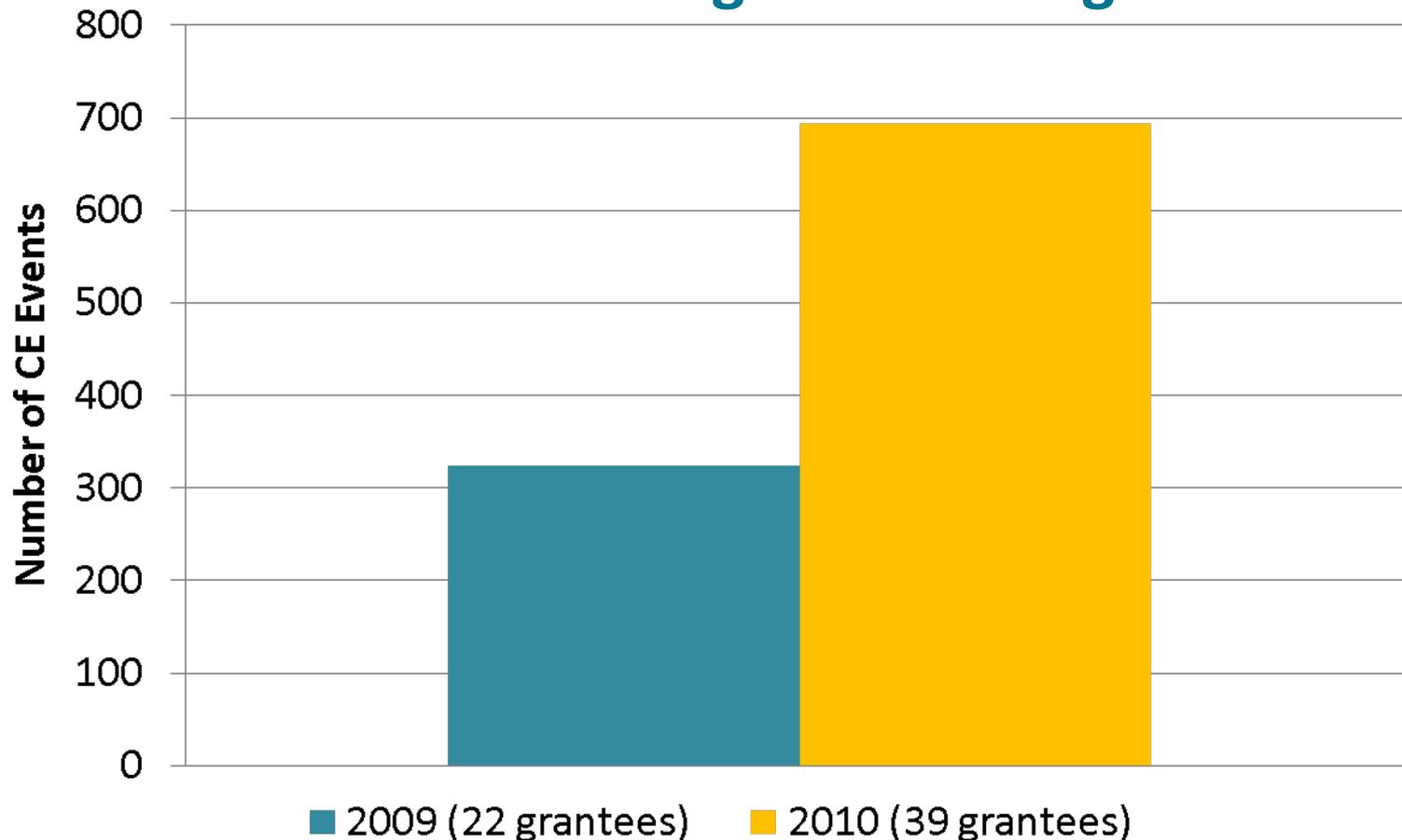
Medium-Term Trainees that received ASD-focused clinical training



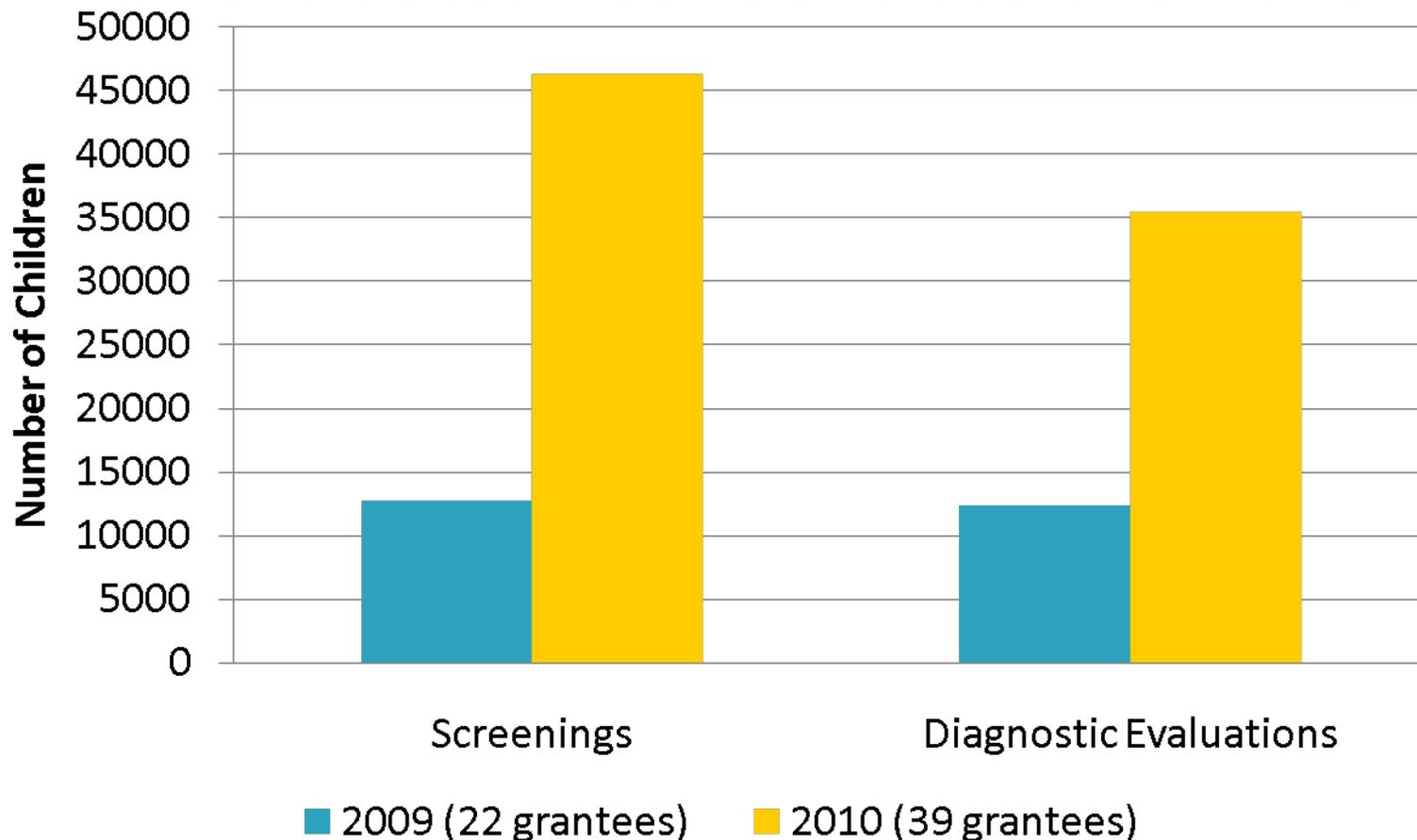
Long-Term Trainees that received ASD-focused clinical training



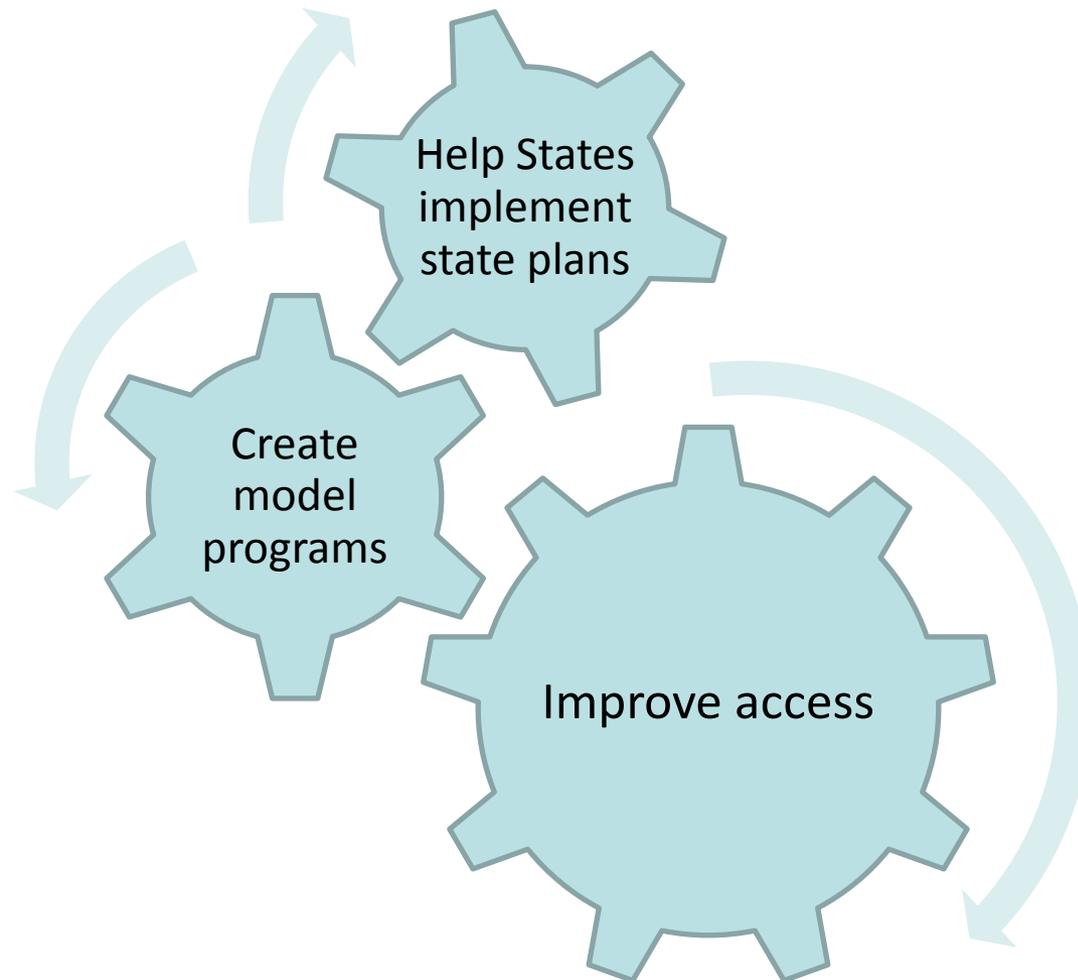
## Training and Increasing Awareness: Enhanced Knowledge and Skills Among Practicing Professionals Through Continuing Education



## Early Evidence of Direct Impact: Increased number of children screened and evaluated between 2009 and 2010



# Purpose of the State Implementation Grants



# Addressing the CAAI Objectives: Overview of State Activities

## Awareness Building

General Information Campaigns

Primary Care Providers

Early Intervention Providers

Child Care Providers

Dentists

## Reducing Barriers

Reimbursement and Insurance

Capacity building Initiatives: Primary Care System

Initiatives to help families access services

## Training

Providers in collaboration with LEND

Families : navigation and advocacy skills

## Infrastructure Building

Partnership Building

Regional systems of referrals and resources

Surveillance Systems

# Family Training

## ***Grantee Highlights***

### **Illinois**

- In-person care coordination training and how to work with primary care physicians

### **Missouri**

- Financial planning session at annual autism conference, 15 families attended last year's session

### **Utah**

- "Autism ABCs: A Family Education Series," a weekly course available in English and Spanish

### **Washington**

- Training for Parent-to-Parent Coordinators

## Summary

### **Reaching People:**

More hearing messages about signs, early screening, and treatment

### **Building Capacity:**

More providers and families receiving necessary resources

On the Path to  
Early Screening  
and Diagnosis

### **Enhancing Skills:**

More families and primary care, child care, and early intervention providers building needed skills

### **Strengthening Partnerships:**

More coordination and collaboration among stakeholders

# MCHB: Providing a Foundation for...



...Accelerating systems change

...Breaking down barriers

...Collaborating to improve the health and well-being of infants and children through research, clinical training and implementation of evidence-based practices



# Contact Information

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