Autism CARES Act Supports:

- CDC: surveillance and public awareness efforts
- HRSA: health professions training, autism intervention research and state implementation grants and
- NIH: Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee
HRSA Roles:

- increase public awareness;
- promote research into the development and validation of reliable screening tools and interventions
- promote early screening
- increase number able to confirm or rule out a diagnosis of ASD
- increase the number able to provide evidence-based interventions
Collaboration with CDC

- Learn the Signs Act Early
- Act Early Ambassadors
- Natl Survey of Children’s Health
- Autism Case Training
Three Program Areas

- Autism Intervention Research
- Training
  - DBP
  - LEND
- State Implementation
Autism Intervention Research

- Supports research networks and autism intervention research projects
- Research on behavioral and physical health through support of 2 research networks, AIR-B and AIR-P
- Multi-site research on innovative treatment models targeting underserved minority and rural populations, including use of telehealth
- Health Care Transitions Research Network (HCT-RN), first collaborative research network to address the health, family, and social needs of adolescents and young adults on the autism spectrum.
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)

- 43 interdisciplinary, graduate level training programs in 39 states
- Train wonderful clinicians, and also emphasize an interdisciplinary approach, family-centered care, cultural competency, and policy skills
- Dedicated to caring for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism
How Does LEND Fit within Larger Autism Efforts?

- Increases the number of professionals in the pipeline of prepared, knowledgeable providers
- Train an average of 1,300 long-term trainees, 3,200 medium-term trainees, and 11,000 short-term trainees each year
- Influence curricula nation-wide pertaining to ASD
- Gives students more ASD field and clinical experience
- LEND graduates become leaders in the fields of MCH and developmental disabilities
Families Are Involved in LEND Programs

• All LEND programs required to have Family Faculty on staff to train and mentor the students

• Family Faculty members are parents, siblings, related to a person with a disability, or they may have ASD or other DD themselves

• They are a critical component of the program, sharing their expertise in living in a family with disabilities, and bringing resources to the trainees as part of their formal curriculum
Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP)

- 10 MCHB-funded DBP programs around the country that focus on autism and related disabilities
- Nation-wide shortage of DBP-trained physicians
- Train nearly 50 long-term trainees each year and at least 350 medium-term trainees each year
State Programs

- Currently fund 13 State Grants (4 planning in NH, AR, TX, MA and 9 implementation in AR, MI, MN, GA, OR, MD, IA, NC, VA)
- Grantees work to improve state systems of services such as:
  - improving early screening, including the training of professionals on validated screening tools;
  - family engagement;
  - coordination of family-centered services through a medical home,
  - preparing youth and families for transition to adult systems of services; and
  - Increasing awareness.
Contact Information

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