

**UW LEND Trainee – Leadership Project Proposal  
2023-2024**

**Program: UW INCLUDE Collaborative**

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**Project Title: Adult Autism/IDD Primary Care – Needs Assessment**

**Describe the Need:**

The rise in prevalence of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders including intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) has overwhelmed capacity of specialist healthcare workers with expertise in serving this population. This has increased the need to involve primary care providers in diagnosis and management of individuals with autism/IDD. The University of Washington INCLUDE Collaborative has addressed this gap through a number of innovative practice-building strategies including the use of telementoring and sharing of best practice approaches through the Project ECHO model. To date, the focus of the INCLUDE Collaborative teaching opportunities has been on pediatric mental health and primary care providers. Increasingly, the need is growing in the adult health care space for these same strategies and approaches.

**Brief Description of Proposed Project:**

This goal of this project is to grow a better understanding of the existing barriers facing adult primary care providers in serving the adult autism and IDD communities in outpatient medical settings. Through a qualitative survey approach, we will query providers across our UW Medicine Primary Care Clinics about existing barriers in serving the adult autism/IDD population as well as potential solutions to those barriers. A focus of this query will include perceived acceptability to an ECHO program designed to improve knowledge, confidence and practice capacity for these primary care providers.

**Project Goal and/or Desired Outcome:**

The results of this qualitative survey will help inform the design and proposed implementation of a new ECHO program, ECHO Autism/IDD Adult Healthcare, delivered through the UW INCLUDE Collaborative. The results of this qualitative survey will be used to support a grant proposal to fund and support the proposed ECHO program.

**Proposed Roles/Responsibilities of the UW LEND Trainee(s):** *Include number of trainees desired*  
1 or 2 UW LEND trainees will work with our WA INCLUDE Collaborative team to design, disseminate, and analyze the results of the qualitative survey distributed to our UW Medicine Primary Care providers.

**List Any Desired Trainee Prior Experiences or Skills:**

The LEND trainee should have a strong interest in working within an interdisciplinary team and be willing to receive necessary guidance and support from this team in order to accomplish this project.