

Project Summary

First Connections is a 3-year project, funded by First 5 Los Angeles. This collaboration of six community based agencies and the USC UCEDD as the Training and Technical Assistance provider is:

- * Developing replicable and sustainable models for autism screening in young children in underserved communities
- * Linking families with early intervention services
- * Educating parents about developmental milestones and the early intervention service system

The Problem

- * Physicians do not routinely use quality screening instruments
- * Children from low income and ethnic minority communities are diagnosed with autism late, missing a critical early intervention window
- * Children from low income families who are identified with a developmental delay are less likely to receive appropriate services

CA-LEND Trainees

Beginning next training year, CA-LEND interdisciplinary trainees will have opportunities to:

- * Provide training and TA to partner agencies from their own discipline perspective
- * Co-lead parent education groups
- * Conduct research to evaluate the models for their CA-LEND Leadership Project
- * Write policy briefs to promote early screening and identification of autism in underserved communities

Support for this project provided by a grant from **First 5 Los Angeles and California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities**

Partner Agencies

Federally Qualified Health Centers



NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION



Eisner Pediatric

Family Support Agencies



Building Brighter Futures for Children and Families



Working Hand in Hand to Change Lives



Support Partners



Champions For Our Children



Help Starts Here

Examples of Alternative Models

AltaMed: Develop screening within electronic medical record to support providers in universal screening and referral processes according to AAP guidelines.

Foothill Family Service: Integrate developmental screening and parent education groups within array of family serving programs, including Early Head Start, Mental Health Program and Teen Parent program. Establish partnerships with minority parent organizations, Family Resource Centers and other community organizations. Expand capacity to reach linguistically diverse families.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Family Resource Center: Expand Child Find through outreach and screening at libraries, community centers and family resource centers.

Logic Model

