

Advancing Practice

Cultivating Quality Care and Nursing Leadership
to Improve the Health of Communities



2025 - 2026 Cohort Open House

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2024 - 2025

What is Advancing Practice?

- ❑ One-year, paid training program for Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP), Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners (AGNP), and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)
- ❑ Partnership between Erie and UIC Nursing
 - Employed by Erie and patient care provided at Erie.
 - UIC Nursing supports curriculum and evaluation development.
- ❑ Primarily funded through a HRSA Grant



What is Advancing Practice?

- ☐ The fellowship prepares recently-graduated NPs and CNMs to become expert clinicians as well as nursing leaders in community health/primary care.
- ☐ Builds on nurse practitioner and nurse midwife academic programs.
- ☐ Located in Chicago, IL and Waukegan, IL.
- ☐ Currently recruiting for our sixth cohort.

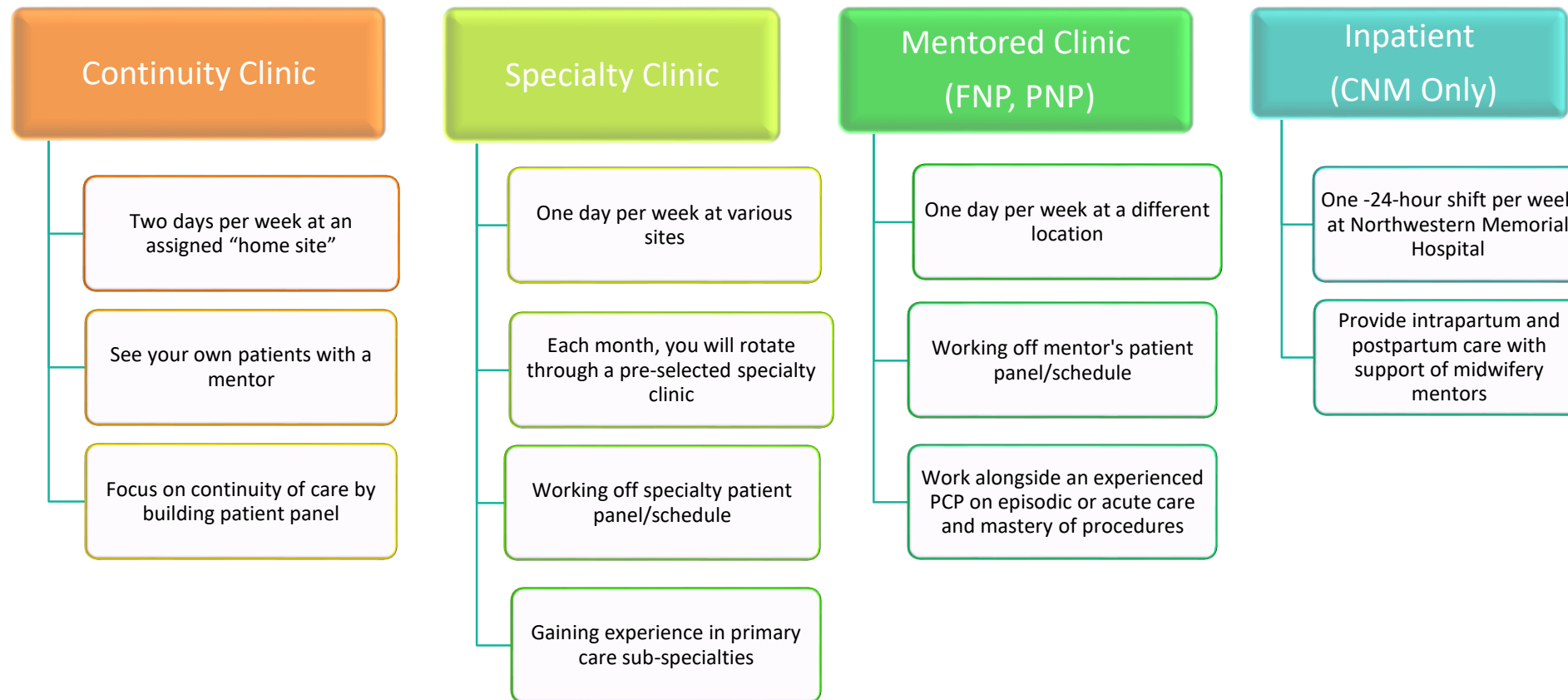


What to expect in the program



Precepted Clinic Rotations

- Fellows will see patients four days a week at various Erie sites

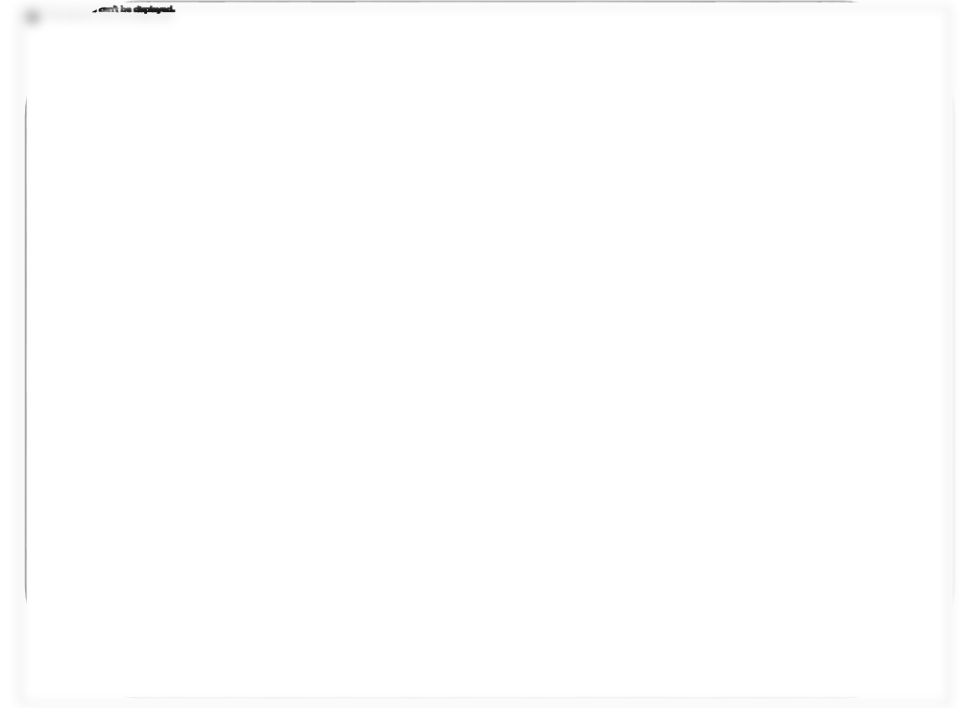


Didactics

- ❑ 3 hours per week, every Wednesday afternoon.
- ❑ Evidence-based, didactic learning sessions on clinical, leadership, and wellness topics.
- ❑ Didactic topics are chosen carefully by assessing the needs and experiences of the fellows.
- ❑ Continuously evolving to meet the Fellows needs.

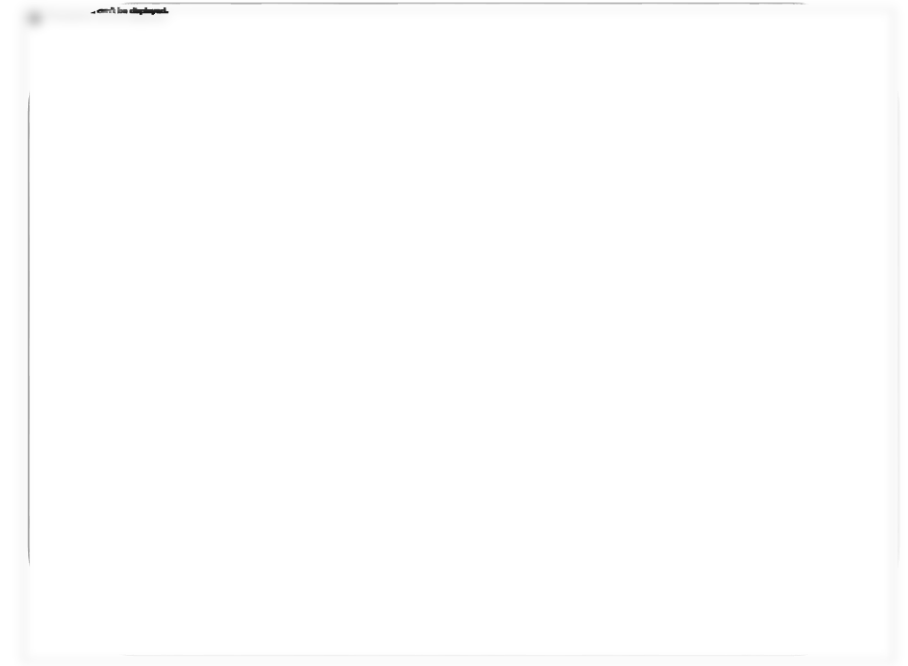
Quality Improvement and Leadership

- ☐ All Fellows participate in a QI Project.
- ☐ QI Projects are assigned based on both personal interest and organizational need.
- ☐ Completion of Institute of Healthcare Improvement Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety.



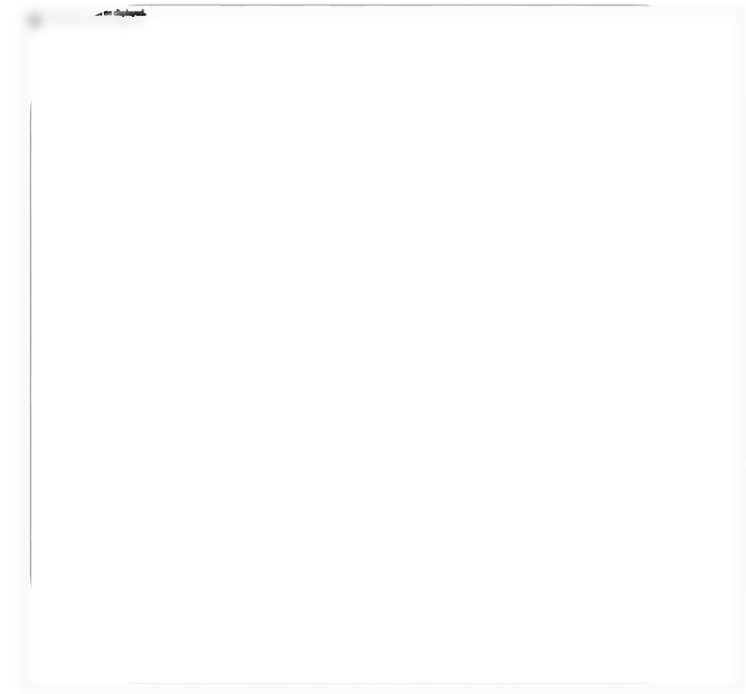
Spanish Class

- ☐ All Fellows, regardless of fluency, will participate in Spanish Classes.
- ☐ Spanish Classes are provided through Instituto de Cervantes.



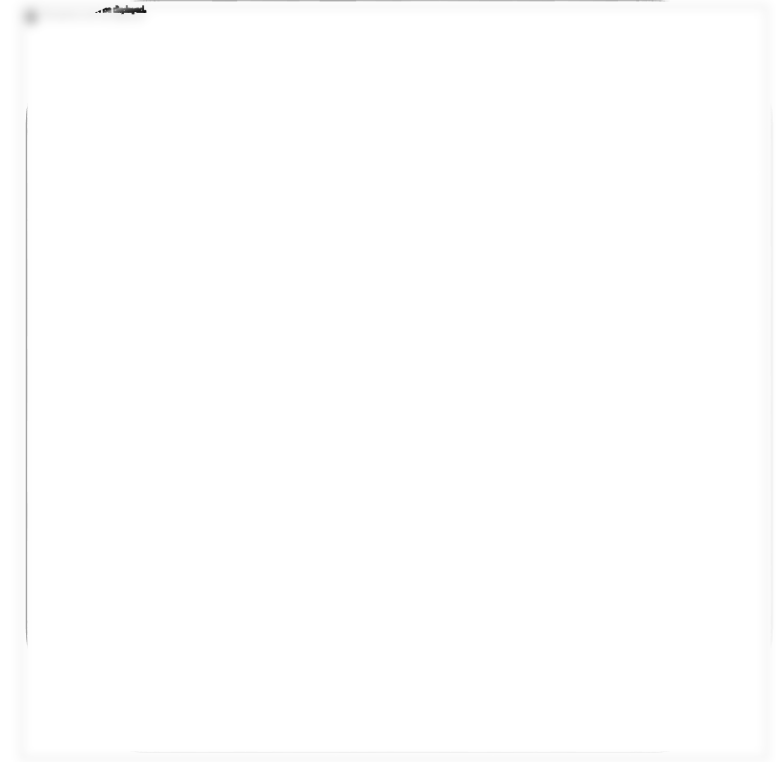
Behavioral Health in Primary Care Certificate Program

- ☐ Between February through April didactics will be paused, and fellows will complete a Behavioral Health in Primary Care Certificate Course through UIC.
- ☐ Required and free for all fellows.
- ☐ In addition to certificate course, fellows will participate in Behavioral Health specialty clinics and didactics.



Additional Elements

- ☐ Orientation
- ☐ Evaluations
- ☐ One-on-one checks ins with faculty member
- ☐ Reflective journals
- ☐ Organizational initiatives and activities



Two Tracks for FNP Fellows

Traditional

- ☐ Traditional scope of FNP practice, caring for patients with an array of conditions during Continuity Clinic
- ☐ Work with preceptor of similar scope during Mentored Clinic
- ☐ Receive occasional maternal/prenatal health experience in Specialty Clinic

Maternal

- ☐ Includes caring for prenatal patients during Continuity Clinic
- ☐ Work with Midwife/OBGYN preceptor during Mentored Clinic
- ☐ Observe intrapartum/postpartum clinic at Northwestern Memorial Hospital

** During the interview process, you can discuss with faculty which track you are most interested in*

Why choose
AdvancingPractice?

Work at a Leading Health Center

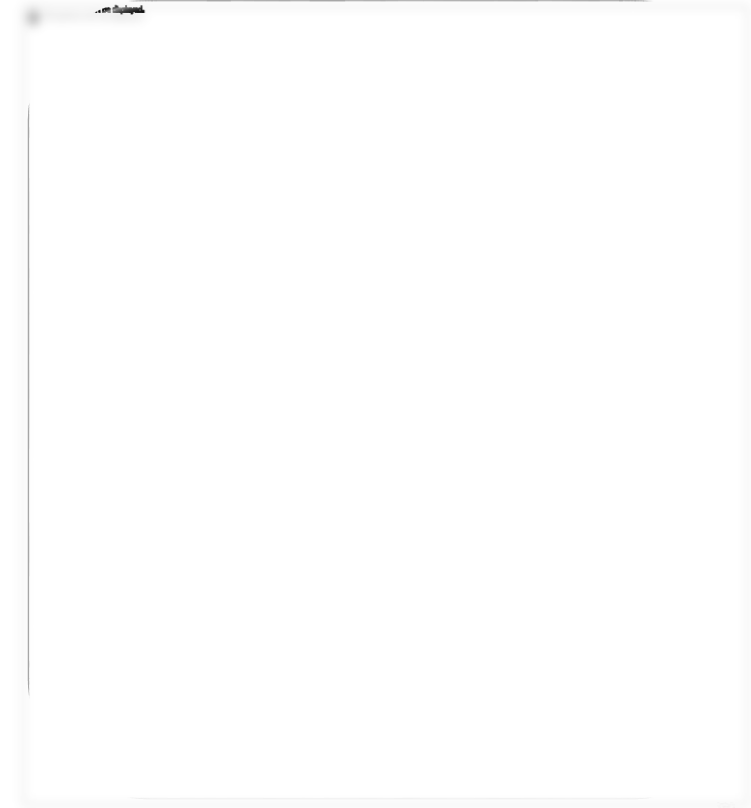
☐ Federally Qualified Health Center with 13 sites located in the Greater Chicagoland Area

☐ Comprehensive Services Include:

- Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Women's Health
- Oral Health Services
- HIV/AIDs Care
- Behavioral Health counseling
- Psychiatry
- Case Management and Care Management
- Health Education
- Other programs addressing SDOH

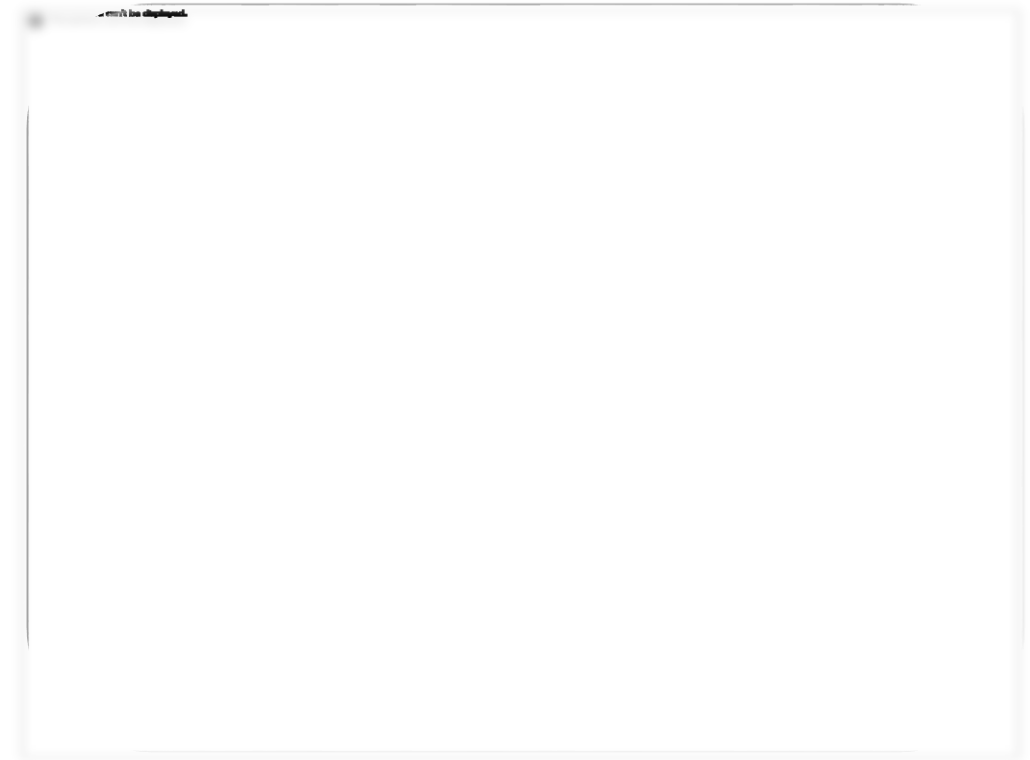
Make a Difference for Patients and Communities

- ❑ Mission- **Motivated by the belief that healthcare is a human right**, we provide high quality affordable care to support healthier people, families, and communities.
- ❑ Erie cares for all patients regardless of age, where they live, insurance or immigration status, or the ability to pay.
- ❑ Serves over 93,000 patients.



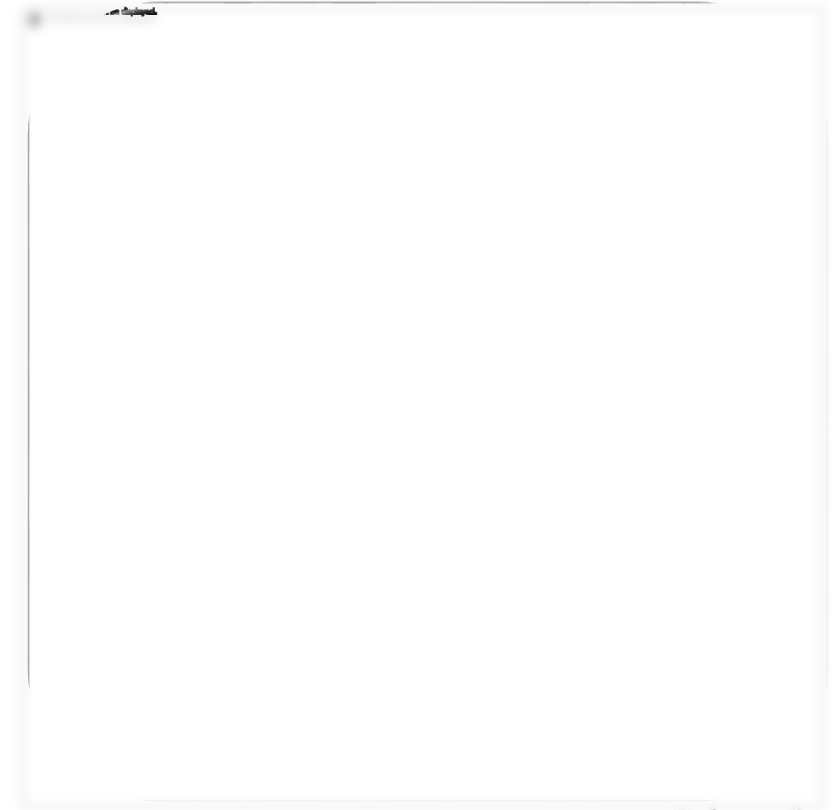
Start your Career in a Supportive Environment

- ☐ Work with a preceptor everyday.
- ☐ Evaluations are completed throughout the year to help track progress over-time, provide feedback and advice, and create improvement plans together.
- ☐ Supportive Senior Leadership Team.
- ☐ Mentorship from former fellows who are now employed at Erie.
- ☐ Build relationships within your own cohort by having shared experiences.



Work With Interprofessional Colleagues Who Support APRN Practice

- ☐ Along with other APRNs at Erie, Physicians and Physician Associates also serve as preceptors.
- ☐ Meet and work with learners from Erie's other medical training programs.
- ☐ Collaborate with administrative professionals and other departments within the organization to lead a QI project.
- ☐ Special presentations from other medical professionals from outside the organization.



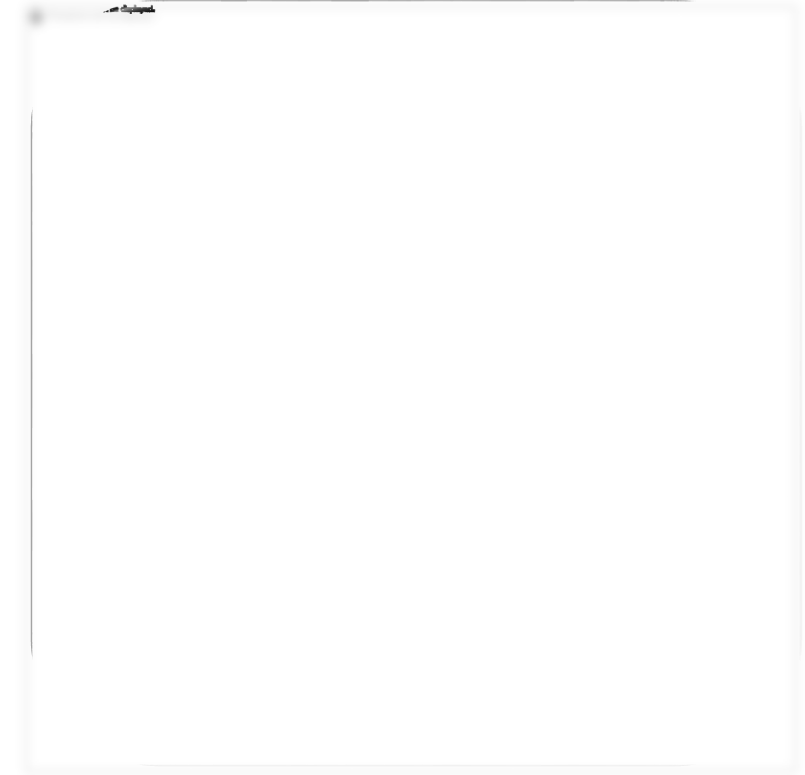
We are an Accredited Program!

- ❑ AdvancingPractice is an accredited APRN training program by the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers. We became accredited in March 2023.
- ❑ During this process, the accreditation completed a two-day site visit to ensure that our program is meeting their required standards of a quality training program.



Other Program Accomplishments

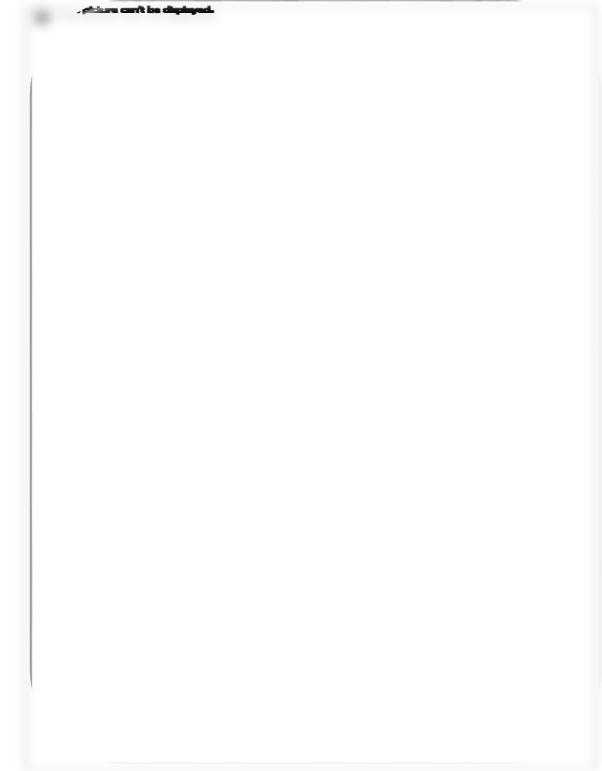
- ☐ We have successfully trained 31 APRN Fellows since 2020 and are currently training 8 more this year.
- ☐ 20 out of the 31 fellows from previous cohorts accepted positions at Erie Family Health Centers post fellowship.
- ☐ Now offering two-year contract with Erie for employment after Fellowship year.



Importance of APRN Fellowships

- ❑ Helps build and maintain APRN Workforce, especially in community health and primary care.
- ❑ Equipping newly graduated APRNs with tools to avoid burn-out and thrive in their careers.
- ❑ Promotes collaborative among healthcare disciplines including physicians, PA's and behavioral health clinicians.

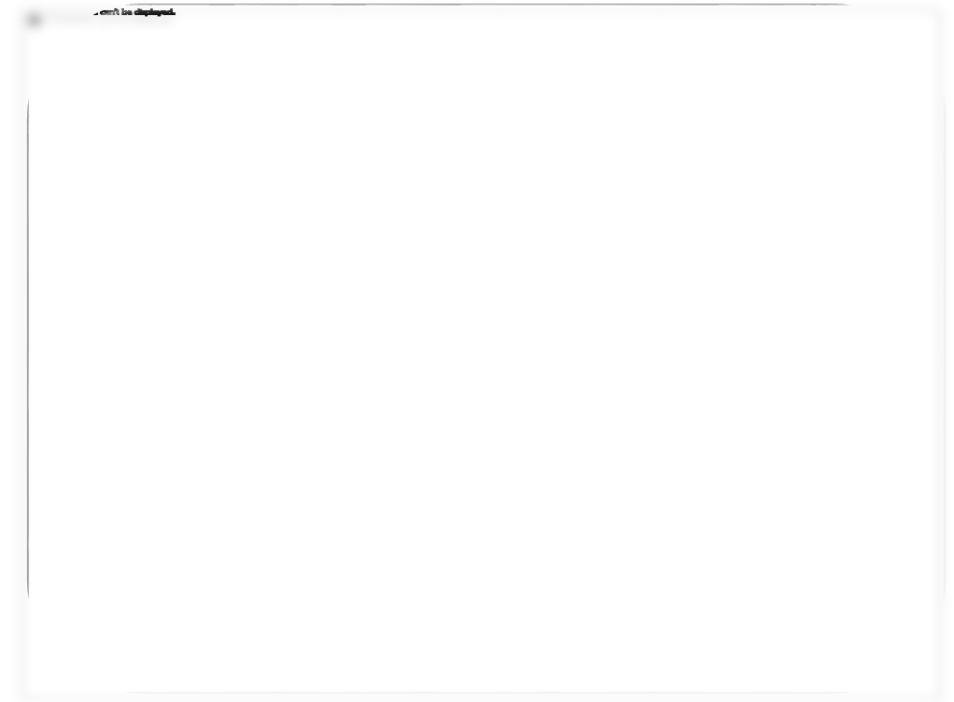
"The fellowship gave me the opportunity to build not only clinical skills, but professional relationships with staff. Forming connections with patients and helping them reach their goals was the best part. I walk into work today as an APRN in school-based health with confidence because I have that knowledge and support system behind me." – Casey Scott, FNP, Former Fellow



What Happens Now?...

Apply!

- ☐ Apply to be apart of the sixth cohort of AdvancingPractice!
- ☐ A PDF of our application is available to download on our website.
- ☐ Review the application early to ensure you have adequate time to review all application components and requirements.
- ☐ All applications are due on **February 2nd at 11:59pm CST.**
- ☐ Two rounds of interviews will take place between February and March.



Requirements

- ✓ Recent graduates (March 2024 and May 2025) from an accredited NP (family, adult-gerontological primary care or pediatric primary care) or CNM program.
- ✓ Planning a career in community health working with diverse and under-resourced populations.
- ✓ Licensed and certified or certified-license pending upon admission to fellowship.
- ✓ Highly motivated to learn and speak Spanish through group provided training and independent study.
- ✓ Minimum GPA of 3.0
- ✓ Able to travel between all Erie sites.
- ✓ Able to start the program on **September 8th, 2025.**

Important Notes to Remember...

- ☐ We pay our fellows 70% of market rate for APRNs in Chicago.
 - ☐ That equals \$73,500 for the fellowship year.
- ☐ Employment at Erie after the Fellowship is **not guaranteed** but the goal of our program is to build our workforce.
- ☐ Employment will be dependent on Fellow performance and well as organizational needs.

Important Notes to Remember...

Federal Loan Repayment Programs

- ❑ If you are apart of a HRSA Loan Repayment Program...
 - You may be eligible to apply for the HRSA National Health Service Corp or Nurse Loan repayment program.
 - Both programs require you to be employed and as a licensed primary care clinician in eligible disciplines (this includes CNMs and APRN's).
 - In exchange for loan repayment, you serve at least two years of service at an NHSC-approved site in a Health Profession Shortage Area site.

Important Notes to Remember...

Federal Loan Repayment Programs

- ☐ It is the applicant's responsibility to assess the criteria for application and contact HRSA for eligibility questions.
- ☐ This Fellowship does not prevent participation. It is important to point out that this fellowship is a one-year program, and we cannot guarantee that you would be hired after the Fellowship year.
- ☐ If you were not hired after the Fellowship year, you would have to find employments at another Health Profession Shortage site.
- ☐ If you are unable to make arrangements directly with the HRSA program you may be liable to pay back funds.

Connect With Us!

Website: eriefamilyhealth.org/advancingpractice/

Email: advancingpractice@eriefamilyhealth.org

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THANK YOU!

