



# Advancing Practice

## ERIE FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS POST-GRADUATE APRN FELLOWSHIP

### Join Us...

We are now recruiting for our 2024-2025 cohort, that begins on September 9, 2024.

In order to apply, you must be a Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, or a Certified Nurse Midwife who is:

- A recent graduate (between March 2023 and June 2024) from an accredited NP or CNM program with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Planning a career in community health working with diverse and under-resourced populations
- Licensed and certified or certification/license pending upon admission to fellowship. (All Fellows are required to take their board exams no later than June 30 prior to the start of the Fellowship.)
- Highly motivated to learn and speak Spanish through group provided training and independent study
- Able to start the program on September 9, 2024
- Able to travel to all Erie Family Health Center sites including all Chicago locations, Evanston and Waukegan
- Interested in behavioral healthcare

*AdvancingPractice* a one-year PAID Fellowship that builds on nurse practitioner (NP) and nurse midwife (CNM) academic programs to prepare recently graduated NPs and CNMs to become expert clinicians as well as nursing leaders in primary health care.

Erie Family Health Centers (Erie) is a federally qualified health center with 13 sites throughout the greater Chicagoland area. Erie believes that healthcare is a human right, and serves 87,000+ patients of all ages from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, regardless of immigration status and ability to pay.

Erie and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing (UIC Nursing) have partnered to create this program with the goal of further expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare in under-resourced communities.

“I chose to participate in *AdvancingPractice* because of the support it provides for new graduate NPs. I did not feel 100% confident to work on my own without help/supervision.”

—Former Fellow

### Interested?

Visit [erie.health/aprn](https://erie.health/aprn) for more information on the program and the application process.

Register to attend one of our open houses:

Virtually: **November 29** or **December 12**, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

In Person: **January 17**, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

at Erie Division Street Health Center

Questions? Contact [AdvancingPractice@eriefamilyhealth.org](mailto:AdvancingPractice@eriefamilyhealth.org).

### AdvancingPractice

Transforming Healthcare to Achieve  
Health Equity and Justice



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# Why Choose?

## Advancing Practice

AT ERIE FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS

# you will...

### Join a Talented and Robust Team

Erie employs a growing and talented group of APRNs. Join an organization that supports full scope APRN practice and collaborative relationships amongst other healthcare providers.

### Receive a Paid Fellowship with Great Benefits!

Not only is this a paid fellowship, Erie provides excellent benefits, including:

- Medical/dental insurance
- 401k program
- Pre-tax transit program
- 20 days of PTO
- Special deals on movie tickets and concerts
- Discounts with several wireless carriers

### Be a Part of an Accredited Post-graduate Training Program

As of March 2023, *AdvancingPractice* is an accredited post-graduate training program by the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers. *AdvancingPractice* met all of the Consortiums quality standards. You can feel confident that you are joining a high-quality APRN fellowship.

### Learn from and Collaborate with the University of Illinois in Chicago

We have several UIC faculty members on our team who all believe in the importance of a post graduate training, one of whom has extensive experience with NP program evaluation and co-authored the National NP Residency and Training Consortium accreditation standards. UIC nursing is among the top ten APRN programs nationwide and is instrumental in ensuring the program is an exceptional experience for fellows.

### Work at an Organization that Is Integrating Care

Erie serves over 85,000 patients across 13 sites including 7 primary health care centers, 1 adolescent only health center and 5 school-based health centers along with comprehensive coordinated services such as women's health, HIV/AIDS care, and psychiatry.

### Make a Difference in Health Equity

Achieving health equity and respecting human dignity are at the core of the nursing profession. At Erie Family Health Centers, you will be mentored in an organization that values diversity, equity, and inclusion. Erie acknowledges the deep history of systemic oppression, racism, and discrimination that plagues our communities. Erie makes a difference in the community by caring for all patients regardless of status

- >90% of patients are considered low-income
- 23% of patients are uninsured
- 44% of patients are Non-English speaking

### Be a Part of a Leading Health Center with an Uncompromising Commitment to Quality.

Erie is in the top 10% of health centers nationwide on key patient quality metrics. Our level of high-quality care outperforms community health centers across Illinois and the US on a range of clinical quality measures, ranking it among the top providers in the nation.

Erie is one of 1% of CHCs nationally to receive the new HRSA Maternal and Child Health Quality Leader Award, and Erie is one of 1/3 of CHCs nationally to receive the Health Disparities Reducer Award.

“The fellowship gave me the opportunity to build not only clinical skills, but professional relationships...I work today as an APRN with confidence because I have that knowledge and support system behind me.”

—Former Fellow

## WHAT TO EXPECT

# The Advancing Practice Experience



## Being an Advancing Practice Fellow

- You will begin your career with built-in mentorship and support. Every day you are in clinic, you will work with an experienced preceptor so that you can build your confidence in a safe, learning environment.
- While you are a fellow, you are also an employee of Erie. This means you get to experience all the benefits of being an Erie employee.

## Clinic Rotations

- During the week, each Fellow will experience 3 types of clinic rotations.
- Each fellow will be assigned a home site where they participate in Continuity Clinic. There you will build and care for your own patient panel.
- Throughout the year, Fellows see patients at all 13 Erie sites, including Evanston and Waukegan. Possible evening and/or weekend hours may be scheduled throughout the year. (CNM Fellows may have inpatient/call shifts on a weekend.)

### 1. Continuity Clinic

- 2 days/week at home site
- Home sites will be assigned before the start of the fellowship and include 3 Chicago Erie sites and Erie HealthReach Waukegan.

### 2. Specialty Clinic

- 1 day/week at various sites
- Work off mentor's patient panel/schedule
- Gain experience in primary care subspecialties

### 3. Mentored Clinic (FNP, PNP, AGNP)

- 1 day/week at a secondary site
- Work off mentor's patient panel/schedule
- Work alongside an experienced PCP on episodic or acute care and mastery of procedures

### 3. Inpatient Clinic (CNM Only)

- One 24-hour shift every week at Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Provide intrapartum and postpartum care with support of midwifery mentors

## FNP Fellows have two tracks to choose from:

### Traditional Track

- 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 expedience in Specialty Clinic

### Maternal Health Track

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

“My time in the fellowship has been full of learning at an accelerated pace! Seeing patients in clinic, discussing them with experienced preceptors, and having that learning reinforced in didactic and in reading has been really helpful in solidifying my clinical practice.”

—Former Fellow

## Off-Clinic Day

Wednesdays are Fellows non-clinic days. Time is allotted for the other required curriculum elements.

## Didactics

Evidence-based, didactic learning sessions on clinical topics led by Fellowship staff and guests.

## Spanish Classes

Spanish classes begin during orientation and continue through the first half of the fellowship.

## Quality Improvement

Fellows participate in a QI Project, assigned by Fellowship staff, based on personal interest and organizational need. Fellows are required to complete the *Institute of Healthcare Improvement Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety*.

## Behavioral Health Certificate

Fellows complete a Behavioral Health Certificate during the Fellowship year.



# FAQs

## Is this a paid fellowship?

Yes, Fellows will be paid 70% of market rate for newly graduated APRN's in Chicago and FQHC's. The amount will be determined and shared with candidates during the interview process.

## Do we get benefits and time off?

Yes. Fellows will be treated as Erie employees and will receive full benefits including medical insurance, a 401k, and 4 weeks of PTO.

## What types of APRN's do you accept into the program?

We accept Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP), Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners (AGNP) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM).

## Are we an accredited program?

Yes., by the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers.

## How many fellows are you accepting?

The number of Fellows we hire will be dependent on the organizations needs and will not be determined until interviews are completed.

## By when do you have to graduate to be eligible to apply?

Applicants must graduate from their academic program within 18 months of the program start date. You must schedule your board exams no later than June 30 prior to the program start date.

## Is there relocation reimbursement?

No, but we can offer assistance in choosing a neighborhood to reside in and commuting options.

## Are the Spanish Language courses required?

Yes, every fellow, regardless of spanish knowledge, will be required to attend Medical Spanish courses either in person at a local institution, or online. The majority of Erie Family Health Centers' patient population is Spanish speaking. These classes will be paid for by the Fellowship and will take place during orientation and throughout the year.

## At what sites will we see patients?\*

Erie has 13 sites, 11 of which are located in the Chicago area. There is one location in Waukegan and one location in Evanston. All locations will be utilized during the Fellowship year and will be determined before the start of the program. Continuity clinics will be held at the same site for each fellow in order to have consistent patients. Mentored clinics and specialty clinics will change throughout the year. You must have reliable transportation and be willing to travel to Evanston and Waukegan.

"This program taught me how to navigate challenges in community health and how an FQHC functions."

—Former Fellow

## How will the specialty rotations work?\*

Every month you will work a different specialty within primary care. A few specialties we provide are Infectious Disease, Psychiatry, Behavioral Health, Procedure Clinic and Women's Healthcare.

## How will precepting work?

Our preceptors go through an extensive training and orientation process. Just as the Fellows are evaluated on a trimester basis, the preceptors are also evaluated to ensure we are meeting the fellows needs. Every fellow will be assigned core preceptors that are consistent throughout the year, however fellows will work with multiple preceptors throughout the year.

## Will CNMs be provided a full scope of practice?

Yes, this is a full scope CNM position. The position will include one 24hr inpatient hospital call per week and about 20 hours of outpatient care. In the outpatient setting, we average 60% OB and 40% GYN (annuals, family planning and method inserts, problem GYN).

## If accepted into the Fellowship, am I able to still apply for a HRSA Loan Repayment Program?

If you are able to apply for the HRSA National Health Service Corp or Nurse Loan repayment program, you must serve at least two years of service at an NHSC-approved Health Profession Shortage Area site. It is the applicant's responsibility to assess the criteria for application and contact HRSA with eligibly 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 employment at another Health Profession Shortage site. If you are unable to make arranges directly with the HRSA program you may be liable to pay back funds.

## Are there specific requirements after the fellowship year?

You do not have to stay with Erie after the fellowship year. However, we encourage you to apply for available positions at the end of the fellowship year. If you do not want to stay with Erie, we will support and help you find a new place of employment.

## Any other questions?

Contact [advancingpractice@eriefamilyhealth.org](mailto:advancingpractice@eriefamilyhealth.org) or call 312-432-2056.

\* Component subject to change.