This 12-month post-graduate residency in primary care for homeless Veterans is an innovative program that started in 2016 at the Greater Los Angeles VA’s Center of Education for Interprofessional Academic Patient Aligned Care Teams (CoE IA HPACT). The purpose of the CoE IA HPACT is to further develop the primary care clinical and professional skills necessary to achieve competence in caring for homeless Veterans as a member of an interprofessional PACT team within the VA healthcare system.

**Mission Statement**

The CoE IA HPACT will train the next generation of health professionals to care for vulnerable patients in a way that builds patients’ self-efficacy while meeting their social, psychological, and physical needs, with empathy and teamwork.

**History**

The VA Office of Academic Affiliations began funding 5 Academic Patient Aligned Care Teams in 2011 to meet the challenge of training healthcare professionals to work together in a Patient Centered Medical Home model primary care setting in support of Veteran health. Greater Los Angeles is one of 2 sites in the second phase. The 7 sites work together to advance training of the primary care provided to Veterans.

**Training Experiences, Supervision and Didactics**

The clinical experience will include managing the primary care of homeless Veterans in a supportive team as well as a rotation in street medicine, medicine specialties, and electives to augment advanced clinical knowledge. Residents will be mentored by interprofessional faculty to achieve professional competencies in homeless care, primary care-mental health integration, humanism, leadership, and teamwork. Didactic sessions will be held weekly. Trainees will participate in developing the CoE IA HPACT including teaching other professional and junior team members, case presentations, program development/evaluation, and applying new quality improvement skills to projects.

**Eligibility**

NP Resident applicants must be US citizens or meet federal employment eligibility. Applicants need to have graduated from an accredited Nursing school within a year of
starting the program. They must hold national board certification in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care or Family and hold a CA NP license prior to starting the residency. Applicants cannot have worked as an NP. They must be able to start in late August, the exact start date to be announced in June.

**Accreditation Status**

Our NP residency program is not currently accredited. We have begun the process of applying for accreditation.

**Stipend**

$84K/2080 hours

**Leave, Time, and Attendance**

Tour of duty is generally 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Elective times may vary.

- 10 paid federal holidays per year
- Accrual of 8 hours annual leave (vacation) and 4 hours of sick leave for each 2 week pay period worked (up to 104 hours each of sick leave and 208 hours annual leave per year).

**How to Apply**

Please email your curriculum vitae, personal statement, and cover letter to Kristin Kopelson at Kristin.kopelson@va.gov. Include pertinent background, particular qualifications you bring to the program, professional goals both short-term and in 5 years, and how you plan to utilize this training. These 3 documents must be received by February 1st of the year you are applying.

**Selection Process**

We have four NP resident trainee positions annually. We will review and rate applicants and offer an interview to the strongest applicants. Offers will be extended by email as soon as committee consensus is reached, and references have been contacted, approximately April 15th. Those candidates that are not ranked in the top four may be waitlisted. Once an offer is made, applicants will be asked to accept or decline. Positions may be held for 72 hours but we ask you notify us of a decision as soon as feasible. These applicants then must complete federal application documents and undergo eligibility verification.

**Commonly Asked Questions**

*Am I guaranteed employment with VA at completion of the program?* No. One of our top priorities is to prepare our NP residents for VA employment, but the program does not guarantee employment.

*As a current VA RN, can I stay employed and do the residency?* No. As a current VA employee, you may apply but to become a resident trainee, you will have to resign your VA position during the residency. Further, the VA training year does not count towards your VA employee work years, seniority, or retirement.
As a VA RN soon to be NP, does the residency help me get hired at VA as an NP? As a former employee who completes the residency, you are not guaranteed a VA position upon completion, but you will have a valuable one year of VA NP primary care experience. We are happy to report that some former VA employee resident graduates have secured VA NP positions. Others are doing very well in the community.

Can I count the residency as VA NNEI payback time? No. The residency is a trainee stipend position, not VA employment. As an NNEI with an obligation, you may apply for and if selected, participate in the residency, but your payback time would start after residency completion.

Do you have other start dates? No. At this time we only offer a late summer start date.

Can I work during the residency? The residency offers a competitive stipend, including benefits, to enable residents the ability to focus on the training. Moonlighting is discouraged as it tends to diminish the learning experience.

For More Information
See what is happening at the Centers of Education in Primary Care at http://www.va.gov/OAA/coepce/index.asp. Questions? Contact Kristin Kopelson at 310-478-3711 ext. 43116

Leadership
Carole Warde, MD
CoE Director

Kristin Kopelson, MSN, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC
CoE Associate Program Director

Colleen Keenan, PhD, FNP-BC
UCLA School of Nursing CoE Affiliate Faculty