



Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency

Center of Education for Interprofessional Academic Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team

Information for Applicants

This VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) funded 12-month post-graduate NP residency in primary care for homeless and vulnerable Veterans is an innovative program that started in 2016 at the Greater Los Angeles VA's Center of Education for Interprofessional Academic Homeless 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 OAA Interprofessional Academic Patient Aligned Care Team NP Residencies began in 2011 as part of the Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education (COEPCE) to train healthcare professionals to work together in a Patient Centered Medical Home primary care model supporting Veteran health. Greater Los Angeles is one of two sites to join the COEPCE second phase in 2016. The sites worked together to advance interprofessional training of the primary care provided to Veterans. The VA offers many other primary care, geriatrics/extended care, and mental health NP residencies. All the VA OAA NP residency leaders collaborate regularly to advance the residencies in line with the VA mission and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation (CCNE) guidelines.

Training Experiences, Supervision and Didactics

The clinical experiences will include managing a primary care panel of homeless and vulnerable veterans in a supportive interprofessional team as well as rotations 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. Interprofessional didactic sessions will be held biweekly. Trainees will participate in the CoE IA HPACT including teaching other professional and trainee team members, giving case presentations, applying new quality improvement skills to projects, and providing input for program development through idea sharing and evaluation. Nurse practitioner specific learning activities will include giving journal club presentations and competency-based didactics.

Eligibility

- Applicants **cannot have worked as an NP.**
- A current unencumbered RN license in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States or the District
- A current unencumbered NP license and furnishing license, (if applicable in state of licensure), or proof of pending license(s) application(s) from a state board of registered nursing (all Residents must receive state licensure within 90 days of program start date to continue in the program).
- If applicant already holds an NP license, should have a DEA license or proof of pending application by start date. A DEA CS II/V license will be required by November.
- AANP or ANCC board certification or proof of pending application to sit for board certification (all Residents must receive board certification within 90 days of program start date to continue in the program).
- Current BLS certification
- Graduation from an FNP or AGPCNP Program 12 months prior to the start of the program
- US Citizen or Naturalized US Citizen and proficiency in written and spoken English
- Completion of the following by program start: security/professional background investigation as required by the VA, pre-employment health screening, tuberculosis skin testing, up-to-date vaccinations for healthcare workers as recommended by CDC and VA or applicable waiver according to VA policy, possible random drug testing
- A minimum graduate school GPA of 3.5 is preferred.
- Applicants must be able to start mid-August, with the exact start date to be announced to selected applicants (corresponding to the start of a biweekly federal pay period).

Accreditation Status

Although our NP residency program is not currently accredited, we have developed the program with the rigor and intention to be eligible for accreditation. The VA OAA has rolled out a timeline for CCNE accreditation review for each of the NP residencies. Greater Los Angeles is planned for Spring, 2025.

Stipend

\$86K/2080 hours

Leave, Time, and Attendance

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

- 10 paid federal holidays per year
- Accrual of 4 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 104 hours annual leave per year).
- No call or weekend shifts

How to Apply

The **application period is from January 15th - February 15th**. Please email a **single** application packet **PDF of the following in this order**:

1. Curriculum vitae (please research the differences from a resume)
2. Personal statement
3. Application (VA Form 10-2850D)

Send your unofficial graduate school transcript, with your PDF application to the Program Director at kristin.kopelson@va.gov.

In your personal statement, please include your pertinent background/particular qualifications you bring to the program (e.g., primary care, veteran health, and vulnerable populations work experience, teaching experience, and military history), short-term and five-year professional goals, and how you plan to utilize this training (**maximum 600 words**). These three documents must be received by February 15th of the year you are applying. Final transcripts and references will be requested of the final candidates and **should not** be submitted with the initial application.

Selection Process

There are four NP resident trainee positions annually. We will review and rate applicants then interview only the strongest applicants. Offers will be extended by email as soon as committee consensus is reached, approximately mid-April. 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 final applicants then must complete additional federal application documents and undergo eligibility verification. Candidates that are not ranked in the top four may be waitlisted.

Commonly Asked Questions

May I apply if I have not graduated yet? Yes, we accept applications from students who will graduate, obtain their NP license, and national certification by August 1.

Am I guaranteed employment with VA at completion of the program? No, but one of our top priorities is to prepare our NP residents for VA employment. Program participation does not guarantee employment but we have had great success placing

many graduates of our program. We will help graduates find and navigate how to apply for any open VA positions.

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. You will have one year of pertinent VA NP primary care experience and a chance to experience various VA NP roles. We are happy to report that several 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. If you are an NNEI scholar 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? We only offer the one summer start date.

Can I work during the residency? Moonlighting is discouraged as it tends to diminish the learning experience. The residency offers a competitive stipend, including benefits, to enable residents to focus on the training. Rest, leisure time, exercise, and self-study are encouraged after hours for a balanced start to your new career.

For More Information

Please review our web page: [Nurse Practitioner Residency Program | VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)

Other VA residency sites can be located here: [Nursing Education - Office of Academic Affiliations \(va.gov\)](#)

Scholarly Work

Every year, our residents are mentored in a quality improvement project. Several projects have resulted in posters, national presentations, and publications. A sample of the scholarly work co-authored by NP residents from our GLA CoE program is listed below:

Prince, A., Sabio, Y., Effron, L., Abromowitz, M., Reyes, L., Darnell, J., Chen, P., Ng, D., Willinger, C. Kopelson, K., Capone-Newton, P., Cowan, B., Borthwick, K., Penamon, C., Gelberg, L. (2022). Facing the Digital Divide: Increasing Video Visits Among Veterans Experiencing Homelessness. *Annals of Family Medicine*, 20(5), 486; <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2861>

Temblique, E., Foster, K., Fujimoto, J., Kopelson, K., Borthwick, K. M., & Capone-Newton, P. (2022). A 1-Year Review of a Nationally Led Intervention to Improve Suicide Prevention Screening at a Large Homeless Veterans

Clinic. *Federal Practitioner: For the Health Care Professionals of the Veterans Affairs, DoD, and PHS*, 39(1), 12–18. <https://doi.org/10.12788/fp.0215>

Owens, T., Ewing, D., Devera, M., Shrestha, S., Kopelson, K., Capone-Newton, P., Gelberg, L. (2021). Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Housing for Health in the VA Greater Los Angeles Tent Community. *Annals of Family Medicine*. October 29, 2021. [Response To The Pandemic: Housing For Health In The Va Tent Community \(umich.edu\)](https://doi.org/10.12788/fp.0215)

Gregg, E., Linn, C., Nace, E., Gelberg, L., Cowan, B., & Fulcher, J. A. (2020). Implementation of HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis in a Homeless Primary Care Setting at the Veterans Affairs. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*, 11, 2150132720908370. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2150132720908370>

Bakr, O., Gelberg, L., Seragaki, S., Youn, S., Kawamoto, J., Hoppe, M., Altman, L., Kopelson, K., May, F. P., Cowan, B., & Bhattacharya, D. (2019). Treating Hepatitis C in Homeless Veterans at the Greater Los Angeles Veterans' Affairs Medical Center. *Hepatology*, 70(3), 1071–1073. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hep.30643>

Soh, M., Shaner, A., Gelberg, L., Kopelson, K., Stuber, M., Fessler, D., & Warde, C. (2018). Using the Humanism Pocket Tool for Patients with Challenging Behaviors. *Annals of family medicine*, 16(5), 467. <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2300>

Questions? Contact Kristin Kopelson at 310-478-3711 ext. 43116

Leadership

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