Pathways to Primary Care: Leadership, Quality, and Patient Care in the Community Health Center Setting
Host

Colleen McLellan, M.Ed.
• NMF Scholarships & Programs Associate
• New Orleans, LA
• cmclellan@nmfonline.org / 504.309.7380, x203

Agenda

• Primary Care and the PCLP Model
• Program Components and Requirements
  • The PCLP Scholar Experience
  • Program FAQs
• Application Process
  • Application FAQs
The Primary Care Crisis

84 million Americans lack access to primary care¹

- The Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) model allows for community-based, comprehensive primary care, including the community health center (CHC) model
- Team-based care includes physicians, nurses, and physician assistants addressing healthcare needs and patient-centered care

¹https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/
Image from Revcycle Intelligence. (2019, July 31). “Balancing Specialty and Primary Care Lowers Costs for ACOs.”
The NMF Primary Care Leadership Program (PCLP)

Mission: To develop a pipeline of future primary care professionals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to serving underrepresented communities and build capacity at partner community health centers (CHCs)

Objectives

✓ Inspire a cadre of healthcare professionals to serve the underserved
✓ Develop leadership and management skills
✓ Improve clinical skills
✓ Build nationwide mentoring networks
✓ Build capacity in CHCs through service-learning projects
Eligible students are...

- 1st and 2nd year medical students*
- Graduate-level nursing students
- Graduate-level physician assistant students
- From underrepresented minority groups in medicine, and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds

*Medical students in any year of study may apply. Dual-degree, M3, and M4 students should contact Colleen McLellan, regarding scheduling: cmclellan@nmfonline.org

Scholars join a network of over 18,400 verified NMF Alumni
PCLP Basics

• PCLP provides a $5,000 scholarship stipend
• 2020 PCLP Scholar cohort will include 70+ Scholars, placed in CHCs in:
  • Boston, MA & Gateway Cities, MA
  • Chicago, IL
  • Houston, TX
  • Los Angeles, CA & Oakland, CA
  • Miami, FL
• Program period will take place over six weeks in June and July 2020:
  • Massachusetts sites: June 1 – July 10, 2020
  • Illinois & Texas sites: June 8 – July 17, 2020
  • California & Florida sites: June 15 – July 24, 2020

Applicants who grew up in or near a site city, or are currently enrolled in a school in the area, may be given preference for placement
PCLP Components

**Leadership**
*Practice Management*
- Develop leadership and management skills:
  - CEO/CMO interviews
  - Staff and board meetings
  - Special event speakers
  - Reflection exercises

**Clinical**
*Care Delivery*
- Engage in primary care delivery and patient support (varies by site):
  - Shadow clinicians
  - Engage in patient activities (e.g., substance use disorder counseling, Diabetes support group)

**Systems Strengthening**
*Service-Learning Project*
- Implement quality improvement projects that build capacity:
  - Assessing provider attitudes toward PrEP, Narcan
  - Improving patient portal engagement
  - Clinic wait times assessment
PCLP Special Topics

In addition to the core curriculum, PCLP Scholar projects and other enriched programming vary by geographic area:

- Scholars in **Boston, MA & Gateway Cities, MA** focus on **substance use disorder, behavioral health, and the opioid epidemic**
  - Past projects include topics like clinician bias, Narcan prescription, and community engagement with overdose management

If applicable, please note interest in a specialized area of focus in your application!
PCLP Special Topics

- Scholars in Chicago, IL and Houston, TX focus on culturally competent care for communities living with or at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS
  - Past projects include topics like harm reduction and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
  - Chicago and Houston Scholars participate in a two-day Symposium event

If applicable, please note interest in a specialized area of focus in your application!
PCLP Special Topics

• Scholars in Los Angeles and Oakland, CA and Miami, FL study primary care in CHC settings, with special topics assigned by each CHC
  • Past projects include food insecurity, barriers to care, and asthma education
  • Los Angeles and Oakland Scholars attend the NMF Champions of Health Award event in Los Angeles

If applicable, please note interest in a specialized area of focus in your application!
PCLP Program Events

- **Orientation**: City-based kick-off events
- **Learning Days**: in-person, topic-based events featuring guest speakers, workshops, readings
- **PCLP Leadership Webinars**: Online, all-Scholar events focused on CHC and policy leadership
- **Gilead/PCLP Symposium**: Two-day, in-person event focused on HIV/AIDS care (Chicago, IL & Houston, TX Scholars)
- **NMF Champions of Health Awards** (CA Scholars)
- **Project Showcase** events, where Scholars present their PCLP Projects to community members and stakeholders
Benefits to Scholars

• Development of leadership and collaboration skills
• Understanding social determinants of health
• Opportunities for community engagement
• Experience with CHC clinical and ancillary services
• Exposure to important non-clinical aspects of medicine and community health
• Access to National Medical Fellowships’ network of over 18,400 Alumni
• Mentorship by distinguished professionals from across the primary care delivery spectrum
In Their Own Words

84% of PCLP Scholars who have graduated are choosing primary care residency or practice

“The experience I gained was incredible. I really admire all the physicians at AltaMed and it reminded me of why I wanted to go into medicine in the first place. It was definitely rejuvenating since we often forget our purpose while constantly studying.”

– Tiffany Luu
Medical Student at University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine
2019 PCLP Scholar, AltaMed Health Services Corporation, Los Angeles, CA

“My PCLP experience showed me another avenue that I can see myself taking as a future physician. I have always wanted to work in rural medicine, but working at a CHC this summer has shown me that I could spend part of my career working at a FQHC.”

– Shiannea Gathers
Medical Student at University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville
2019 PCLP Scholar, El Centro de Corazón, Houston, TX
Program FAQs

• How are accepted Scholars matched with a CHC?
  • Factors include applicant preference, academic interest, local services (i.e., childcare), and availability during the program period.

• What are my weekly hours for PCLP?
  • Most PCLP Site Partners operate on a business schedule, i.e. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM on weekdays, but this may vary by site.

• What is my day-to-day going to be like on site?
  • This varies among PCLP sites, but we provide Peer Mentors from past PCLP Scholar cohorts to help describe each experience.

• May I miss a few days of the program?
  • No. PCLP spans only six weeks, and Scholars may not miss time on site.*

*Scholars currently enrolled in PRIME or comparable programs may be excused for programmatic events. This is assessed case by case.
Early Decision Application

Early decision deadline: December 15, 2019, 11:59 PM Pacific

- Students who apply Early Decision will be notified no later than January 2020 with either an acceptance offer or alternate status
- Accepted ED applicants will have one week to commit to PCLP or they will be moved to the alternate pool
- Acceptance of the ED offer is a binding agreement to participate in PCLP during the assigned program dates*
- Alternates will be re-considered during Regular Decision

*Please note that if a student accepts a Scholar offer during Early Decision, then withdraws from their commitment, a formal letter of complaint will be sent to the student’s Dean and the student will be ineligible to apply for NMF awards for two years
Regular Decision Application

Regular decision deadline: January 17, 2020, 11:59 PM Pacific

• Students who apply Regular Decision, or received “Alternate” status from ED, will be notified no later than March 2020 with either an acceptance offer or alternate status.

• Accepted RD applicants will have two weeks to commit to PCLP*

• Alternates will be placed in PCLP on a rolling basis

*Please note that if a student accepts a Scholar offer then withdraws from their commitment, a formal letter of complaint will be sent to the student’s Dean and the student will be ineligible to apply for NMF awards for two years.
Applying to PCLP

Early decision deadline: December 15, 2019, 11:59 PM Pacific
Regular decision deadline: January 17, 2020, 11:59 PM Pacific

- Start your application at www.nmf.fluidreview.com
- First, complete Applicant Information form
Applying to PCLP

- Eligible PCLP applicants will see application in “View Awards” (see below)
- Application includes:
  - Loan and financial aid documentation
  - Academic documentation
  - Proof of US Citizenship or DACA approval*
  - Brief biosketch
  - Three short personal statements
  - Two letters of recommendation

*DACA status must be valid through the end of the PCLP program
PCLP Application Tips

• Proof of US Citizenship accepted via:
  • US birth certificate
  • Current US passport
  • USCIS Certificate of Naturalization
  • Voter’s registration card accompanied by photo ID
• Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status accepted via DACA approval letter
  • Status must remain current through end of PCLP session

Additional application components, like a CV, biography, and personal statements, are described at www.nmf.fluidreview.com.
PCLP Application Tips

• Student Aid Report (SAR) from US Department of Education is available from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) portal

• Documentation of loan history from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) may not appear as a PDF. You may select “Save as PDF” from print menu instead
PCLP Application Tips

• An Official Letter of Financial Aid Award Offer should be available from your current Office of Financial Aid
  • May be available via student portal; if not, may be requested from Financial Aid officer
• Current academic transcript is required
  • Unofficial transcript is acceptable
  • Transcript from previous academic year or most recent program is acceptable, if current version is incomplete

If you have questions or concerns, email pclpinfo@nmfonline.org
Application FAQs

• May I submit my undergraduate unofficial transcript?
  • Yes. First-year students may submit their most recent complete unofficial transcript.

• I’m not familiar with leadership at my new school. May I request a Letter of Recommendation from someone else?
  • Yes. A Letter of Recommendation from academic leadership at a prior institution is acceptable.

• When are Letters of Recommendation due?
  • Letters of Recommendation may be submitted up to two weeks after the student’s application deadline
Thank you!

Learn more at
www.nmfonline.org/PCLP

For questions or concerns, please contact Colleen McLellan, NMF Scholarships & Programs Associate:
cmclellan@nmfonline.org
504.309.7380, x203

We look forward to your application!