



Program Name: LEAPP CF: Leadership and Education Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program in CF 2023

Brief Program Overview/Description: CFF recognizes the growing demand to recruit and retain Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) trained to address the complex needs of a growing and aging cystic fibrosis (CF) population. APPs are highly effective practitioners who fulfill an array of roles in CF Centers including the provision of clinical care, leadership in QI, research, and newborn screening. Committed to maintaining a strong CF provider workforce, the CFF will recruit a cohort of APPs to the LEAPP CF Fellowship program to expand the number of CF providers in pediatric and adult care programs. The Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Provider CF Fellowship Program is intended to be a structured mentorship program to grow clinical expertise in CF; however, completion of this Program does not result in additional formal credentials and is not accredited by any training/education body or licensing board.

Funding Amount: Awards will be approved for a two (2) year period. Funding of up to \$74,110 in Year 1 and \$77,200 in Year 2 may be requested, plus up to an additional twelve percent (12%) of indirect costs may be requested per year.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or non-residents working in a U.S.-based institution.
- Applicants must have completed Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant training and hold an advanced practice state license and board certification.
- Applicants must be employed and fully credentialed by their institution.
- New APPs should be practicing in a CF program with 2 to 24 months experience at the time of application submission.
- Experienced APPs not currently involved in CF care and those primarily focused on inpatient CF care are also eligible to apply if their home institution has immediate career opportunities in the CF **outpatient** clinic.

Key Dates:

Published	December 15, 2022
Full Application Deadline	March 7, 2023
Committee Review Date	April 2023
Notification to Applicants	May 2023
Project Start Date	September 1, 2023

Table of Contents:

- I. [About the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation](#)
- II. [Program and Award Overview](#)
- III. [Funding Amounts](#)
- IV. [Eligibility](#)
- V. [Mentorship Requirements](#)
- VI. Goals of Research Currently of Interest to CFF/Priority Areas
- VII. [Review and Award](#)
- VIII. [Submission Information](#)
- IX. Letter of Intent Guidelines
- X. [Full Application Guidelines](#)
- XI. [Other Information](#)
- XII. [Contact Information](#)

I. About the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

The mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with CF the opportunity to lead long, fulfilling lives by funding research and drug development, partnering with the CF community, and advancing high-quality, specialized care.

To achieve this mission, various types of grants and awards are offered to support meritorious research and clinical care in CF.

II. Program and Award Overview

CFF recognizes the growing demand to recruit and retain Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) trained to address the complex needs of a growing and aging cystic fibrosis (CF) population. APPs are highly effective practitioners who fulfill an array of roles in CF Centers including the provision of clinical care, leadership in QI, research, and newborn screening. Committed to maintaining a strong CF provider workforce, the CFF will recruit a cohort of APPs to the LEAPP CF Fellowship program to expand the number of CF providers in pediatric and adult care programs. The program is **not** intended to train CF subspecialists such as CF endocrinologists or gastroenterologists.

APPs selected into this CF Fellowship will spend the time as follows:

- the first 18 months will focus on learning about cystic fibrosis including pathophysiology, genetics and clinical care for children and adults with CF
 - instruction will occur through online modules, assigned reading and semimonthly webinars consisting of didactics, discussions, and case presentations
 - this will be paired with clinical training provided by a local clinical mentor (experienced CF physician or APP) and a professional APP mentor at another CF center for the purpose of broadening professional CF APP network and promoting cross-center learning
- the last 6 months will focus on learning and applying the principles of quality improvement and on enhancing leadership skills
 - instructional format will include webinars and facilitated discussions on assigned readings and reference material
 - APPs will be expected to complete a small quality improvement project in the context of this segment of the program

The expectations for the LEAPP program are that awardees devote 0.3 FTE (12/wk) with a minimum of four (4) hours for clinical training with an established clinical mentor (experienced CF physician or APP) and four (4) hours for webinars and self-directed learning per week over the two (2) year period. The expectation of 0.3 FTE is based on a full week's work, and not just the portion that is committed to CF.

III. Funding Amounts

The CFF releases this Request for Applications (RFA) to APPs interested in developing comprehensive expertise in the care of individuals with CF. CFF will award up to \$74,110 in Year 1 and \$77,200 in Year 2 of direct costs over the two (2) year period. Please note that these totals are inclusive of all direct costs, including salary & benefits, travel, and registration fees.

Salary and Benefits for the applicant must be at 0.3 FTE per year. Salary for the applicant is restricted by the NIH salary cap (\$203,700), and another \$10,000 per year is allowable for salary support for the Clinical Mentor.

Travel and registration expenses of up to \$2,000 in year 1 and \$4,000 in year 2 may be requested by the applicant to attend the annual North American CF Conference (NACFC). The increased funding level for

year 2 is intended to cover the NACFCs in 2024 and 2025 (even though NACFC 2025 may fall outside of the funding period for this award).

An additional twelve percent (12%) of indirect costs may be requested per year. Additionally, \$500 is allowable for the purchase of books in year 1, and \$250 for year 2.

	Year 1 (9/1/23 - 8/31/24)	Year 2 (9/1/24 – 8/31/25)
APP Fellow Salary/Effort	30% FTE	30% FTE
Clinical Mentor	\$10,000	\$10,000
NACFC PEP course fee	\$500	N/A
Books	\$500	\$250
Travel to NACFC (for fellow only)	\$2,000	\$4,000 (NACFC 2024 & 2025)
TOTAL MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT	\$74,110	\$77,200

Note: Salaries should be in compliance with institutional guidelines and can be supplemented by the Grantee Institution.

IV. Eligibility

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or non-residents working in a U.S.-based institution.
- Applicants must have completed Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant training and hold an advanced practice state license and board certification.
- Applicants must be employed and fully credentialed by their institution.
- New APPs should be practicing in a CF program with 2 to 24 months experience at the time of application submission.
- Experienced APPs not currently involved in CF care and those primarily focused on inpatient CF care are also eligible to apply if their home institution has immediate career opportunities in the CF **outpatient** clinic.
- If required by the institution, the CF Care Center Director or Affiliate Director can serve as the PI for the award. However, the award must be used for the APP applicant.

APPs are eligible to apply based on the following criteria:

- Applicants must have completed Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant training and hold an advanced practice state license and board certification.
- At the time of application, employed in good standing and fully credentialed at their home institution. New APPs should be practicing in a CF program and have 2 to 24 months experience at the time of application submission. Experienced APPs not currently involved in CF care and those primarily focused on inpatient CF care are also eligible to apply if their home institution has immediate career opportunities in the CF **outpatient** clinic.
- Evidence of institutional support to give APP protected time to participate in scheduled Fellowship webinars, self-directed learning, and complete Fellowship activities.
- A letter of support from the CF Care Center Director, the local clinical mentor, and a letter of support from the Institution are required with the application.
 - The letter of support from the CF Care Center Director or Affiliate Director must include the signature from the Division Chief or Institutional supervisor. The letter should describe the following:

- the structure of the CF clinic,
- how the LEAPP CF Fellow will be integrated into the team over the course of the fellowship and after completion of the fellowship,
- a commitment to the APP's achievement of independent practice,
- a commitment to clinical mentoring for the applicant including the name of the clinical mentor (note this can be another CF APP, the CF center or program director, or another experienced CF care provider)
- commitment to protecting the APP's time for the duration of the fellowship to participate in program activities including at least four (4) hours for direct CF care per week with the clinical mentor, bi-weekly webinars, at least four (4) hours per week for self-directed learning, participation in local CF Center teaching activities, care conferences, quality improvement activities, and any other mentoring activities along with attendance at NACFC.
- The letter of support from the local mentor must affirm their commitment to clinical mentoring of the LEAPP CF Fellowship applicant.
 - attach a high-level outline of the mentoring plan for the applicant's clinical training in the care of individuals with CF and includes periodic attendance at either the CF pediatric or adult center, whichever is not the primary focus of their practice, to gain a strong understanding of the CF population and facilitate transition as well as inclusion in local CF Center teaching activities, care conferences, and quality improvement activities,
 - submit a CV.
- The letter of support from the Institution must affirm the applicant's availability for the activities and meetings stated in this list. It must explicitly state the applicant's clinical responsibilities and guarantee the protected time. The protected time is a critical component of the program, so if this is not guaranteed then the application will not be considered.

The applicant must explicitly agree to the following:

- APPs must attend at least 80% of bi-weekly webinars and achieve satisfactory completion of course content.
- APPs must spend a minimum of four (4) hours per week in face-to-face **outpatient CF** care and four (4) hours completing self-directed learning including online modules, readings, attending bi-weekly webinars, reviewing, and preparing for case presentations and completing a quality improvement project over the two-year period.
 - If your CF program's population cannot provide this level exposure, **in the mentoring plan** please **indicate** the amount of time per week in **outpatient CF** care.
- Periodically attend CF clinic at either the pediatric or adult CF center, whichever is not the primary focus of their practice, to gain a strong understanding of the CF population and facilitate transition.
- Commit to working with a clinical mentor at their institution and an experienced APP mentor at another CF center for peer mentoring and support.
- Attend NACFC annually including the LEAPP Fellowship meeting during this award period.
- Attend the LEAPP program graduation at the end of Year 2 [Oct. 2025]
- Submit an annual progress report as outlined in the award letter.

V. Mentorship Requirements

- Each applicant along with their center director must identify a local primary Mentor with substantial experience in CF clinical care.
- The Mentor(s) must be able to provide the mentorship needed to guide the training toward independent practice, complete periodic competency assessments, and meet regularly with the APP Fellow to discuss progress.

- The Mentor(s) must be at the institution where the applicant will be training.

VI. Goals of Research Currently of Interest to CFF/Priority Areas

Not applicable to this RFA.

VII. Review and Award

The LEAPP CF Review Committee will evaluate all applications and make recommendations to CFF and the Board of Trustees for final approval and funding. CFF considers the availability of funds, the priority score awarded to each application, and the committee recommendations when determining awards.

Selection criteria is based on the following:

- The applicant's interest in CF. This should be written by the applicant and included in their personal statement.
- The commitment of the CF Center Director and Division Chief/ Institutional supervisor to support the training of the applicant in the CF clinic/program including the mentoring plan
- The CF Center Director's / Institution's commitment to support and protect the time of the APP Fellow.
- The commitment of the local mentor including their CV **and the submission of a high-level mentoring plan.**
- Consideration will be given to distribution by adult/pediatric programs, geographic distribution, and need

Chief causes for assigning low priority scores to applications during review include the following:

- Insufficient information or documentation
- Inadequate or absent documentation of the necessary skills, training and/or commitment to protected time
- Failure to meet all of the criteria described in this policies and guidelines statement

VIII. Submission Information

Applications deadline: March 7, 2023 by 5:00 PM (Eastern)

Submit online through <http://awards.cff.org>

(Refer to Section X of these guidelines for specific submission instructions)

An application will be considered incomplete if it fails to comply with the instructions, or if the submitted material is insufficient to permit adequate review. CFF reviews applications electronically, and only documents submitted online at awards.cff.org will be reviewed.

General Timeline:

Application Deadline	March 7, 2023*
Committee Review Date	April 2023
Notification to Applicants	May 2023
Project Start Date	September 1, 2023

***We strongly encourage all applicants to pre-register their profile, institution, contacts, and title of their application at least two weeks prior to the application deadline. This will help to ensure the CFF Grants & Contracts Management and Administration (GCMA) Office is able to assist all applicants with any potential system-related queries prior to the Application Deadline.**

IX. Letter of Intent Guidelines

Not applicable to this RFA

X. Full Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted online at <http://awards.cff.org>

Documents should be typed using:

- Font: Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11
- Margins: No less than a half inch on each side
- Each section should be numbered individually

Note: When all the documents have been uploaded to awards.cff.org, the system will compile them into a single PDF file. You may preview this file by selecting “Application Full Print”, as well as exporting the compiled PDF file.

To login, please visit: <http://awards.cff.org>

For all first-time applicants in the new Grants Management System, we ask that you pre-register to create a username and password for “<http://awards.cff.org>” and complete a profile prior to submitting an application. **Please note:** Applicants should register their profile using the “Domestic Institution” or “International Institution” options to ensure that your profile aligns properly with the institution where the project will be conducted. We also request that as you begin your application, you enter the title of your project, if available. If you are registered and cannot remember your password, click on the “Forgot Password?” link below the “Login” fields.

Once logged in, the award opportunities, including this Request for Applications (RFA), will be listed in the **Funding Opportunities** tab on the opening screen.

Locate the listing for the “LEAPP CF: Leadership and Education Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program in CF 2023” program. Click on the “Apply” button in the column on the far right to open the application form.

Applicants may stop at any point but must click the “Save” button at the bottom of each page *before exiting* in order to save their progress. When you wish to return to your draft application, please do not go through the “Funding Opportunities” tab. Instead, go to the “My Applications” tab in the right corner of the main page. When you are in the “My Applications” tab you will be able to find all your draft applications by clicking on the “Draft Applications” module.

The following sections are displayed as tabs across the application screen. Click on each section and follow the directions. Click “Save” as you complete each section.

GENERAL

Enter the title of your project and select “No” to indicate that this is not a resubmission. The project start, and end dates are set for two (2) years from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2025.

CONTACT PROFILE

If a profile was completed upon registration, the fields in this section will already be populated with the

information entered in your Professional Profile. If you need to make any changes, you may update your profile in this section. Once updated you must **“Save and Validate”** prior to returning to continue your submission.

INSTITUTION

If a profile was completed upon registration, the applicant’s/principal investigator’s institution will be preloaded as the Lead Institution. Domestic applicants must verify their institution by entering the Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN) to search the system for the correct institution. **Please be sure to use the dash formatting when entering your EIN/TIN (XX-XXXXXXX).** If the EIN/TIN is not located, you may add the legal institution. Please also confirm if the project site is the same as the legal institution.

Verification of Applicant Institution’s Tax Status (upload as PDF documents):

The CFF GCMA Office must have a copy of the applicant institution’s current W-9 and 501(c)3 letter, or other documentation verifying its federal tax status and will not issue Award Letters to Awardees if these documents are not received and on file.

- Applicants from for-profit organizations must submit a copy of the applicant institution’s W-9 and IRS documentation verifying the organization’s Federal tax status. Awards are not issued prior to having these documents on file with the CFF GCMA Office.

International Applicants (if applicable):

Not applicable to this RFA

CONTACTS

Please note: The INSTITUTION tab must be completed prior to adding internal contacts to ensure that the contacts are properly associated with the applicant institution.

Complete the required contact fields by searching by name for existing contacts at your institution for each role. If the desired institutional contact is not available in the system, you may select **“Add Internal Contact”** to create a basic contact profile in order to add the individual to your application. Additional contacts not associated with the applicant institution may also be added. These contacts are considered additional contributors involved in the proposed research plan. These may include consultants, and collaborators. In order to add contacts external to the applicant institution, please select the appropriate **“Add Consultants/Collaborators”** button(s) and add the contacts in the table, then click **“Save”**.

REFERENCES

Letters of Support and/or Reference are weighted heavily in the review. At least four (4) letters are required as follows (refer to Section IV above for additional information):

- **CF Center Director or Affiliate Director (required)**
- **Division Chief or Institutional Leader / Institutional Supervisor (required)**
- **Clinical Mentor(s) for this award (required)**
- **Additional referee(s)** – A Letter of Reference from at least one (1) other individual familiar with the applicant’s clinical practice and motivation.

Reference Letters should address the following (from the selection criteria):

- The applicant’s interest in CF. This should be written by the applicant and included in their personal statement.

- The commitment of the CF Center Director and Division Chief/ Institutional supervisor to support the training of the applicant in the CF clinic/program including the mentoring plan
- The CF Center Director’s / Institution’s commitment to support and protect the time of the APP Fellow.
- The commitment of the local mentor including their CV **and the submission of a high-level mentoring plan.**
- Consideration will be given to distribution by adult/pediatric programs, geographic distribution, and need

Letters of Reference must be submitted prior to submission of the application. To invite Referees, go to the “**REFERENCES**” tab of the online application, then select the blue button to open a pop-up window in order to add the referees in the table. You must click “Invite” in order to trigger the e-mail to the referee. The referee(s) will be sent an e-mail asking them to Accept or Decline the invitation to submit a letter of reference and will be provided instructions to submit the letter. **The applicant will be alerted if a referee Declines the invitation; please make sure to check this tab regularly to see the status of the references.** The applicant should inform Referees to submit the letters at least one (1) week prior to the application deadline. This helps to ensure that the letters have been uploaded before the application is submitted. Once the application has been submitted, no documents can be added.

Please note: If any one referee fulfills multiple roles listed above, please add the individual to the online table twice and select the “Referee Others” role so that the referee can submit two references. If using the same individual for two different roles, the same letter can be uploaded twice.

Letters uploaded to <http://awards.cff.org> should not be password protected or otherwise encrypted. Such encryption will cause errors in assembling a single-print PDF of the application. The applicant should inform the individuals writing letters to not include password protection on their documents.

ASBTRACTS/RELEVANCE

Not applicable to this RFA. Please enter N/A in these sections.

BUDGET

Select the “Edit Budget” button under Application Budget, to enter and begin completion of the application’s budget detail for each year of funding being requested. All LEAPP Awards are for a maximum of two years. The total budget requested cannot exceed \$74,110 in year 1 and \$77,200 in year 2 for salaries & benefits, travel expenses, registration fees, and books. An additional twelve percent (12%) of indirect costs may be requested.

Salaries & Benefits - List the names, positions, and percent effort of all professional and non-professional personnel involved in the project, whether or not salaries are requested. For each individual, be sure to complete all fields on the Budget Detail in full on the template provided. In accordance with National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy, salary requests may not use an institutional base salary in excess of the current federal salary cap of \$203,700. Fringe benefits may be requested if they are treated consistently by the applicant institution as a direct cost to all funding agencies and foundations.

Applicants can request up to 0.3 FTE in salary support per year, plus another \$10K in salary support per year for the Clinical Mentor.

Travel - Describe the purpose of travel being requested. Please note: Travel outside the North American Continent, including travel to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories are not allowable expenses without prior written approval from the CFF GCMA Office. Travel expenses may not exceed \$2,000 total per person per year. Registration fees associated with conferences of \$500 per year must be listed under the "Other Expenses" category. Applicants are encouraged to attend the North American CF Conference each year to present their work. Additionally, additional funds to attend NACFC in 2025 (in addition to 2024) are allowable for year 2.

Other Expenses – Other Expenses are limited to registration fees associated with conference attendance and books (\$500 in year 1, \$250 in year 2). Attendance of the NACFC PEP course in 2023 is required, and registration should be listed here.

Budget Detail – Indirect Costs

Indirect costs of up to twelve percent (12%) may be requested from CFF per year for this program.

Unallowable items

FULL APPLICATION UPLOADS

In this section you will upload application materials as outlined below. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required in order to submit the application. Templates are available for download for the following items (documents must be uploaded in PDF format):

- Budget Justification
- Personal Statement from the APP applicant including post fellowship plans
- Proposed high-level Mentoring Plan
- Other Support

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Describe costs listed in the Budget Detail. Use major categories, such as Salary & Benefits, Travel, etc. Justify all items and make sure amounts and figures listed in the narrative are consistent with those listed in the Budget Detail.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The APP applicant must provide a personal statement (not to exceed 2 pages) that addresses the applicant's interest in the topic and this project, the applicant's perception of his/her/their role in the project, and the applicant's career goals and commitment to a career in CF.

The personal statement should include descriptions of the following:

- Current clinical obligations including primary CF population working with - pediatric or adult or mixed; percent of time with CF population and percent of time with other patient populations; opportunity to see CF patients clinically, and involvement with the CF Center and how you see clinical care of patients with CF fitting into these obligations
- Scope of practice including the level of independence and whether the APP role is considered a faculty member
- Career goals post- fellowship specifically related to a long-term commitment to CF care

PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL MENTORING PLAN

- This section should be completed in conjunction with the local clinical mentor. It should outline a high-level plan for mentoring the applicant toward independent practice in the general CF care of

patients and include regular meetings to discuss progress and complete periodic competency assessments (not exceeding one page). Participation of the APP in local CF Center teaching activities, care conferences, quality improvement activities, attendance at the annual North American CF Conference and any other mentoring activities should be included. Plans for periodic attendance at either the CF pediatric or adult center, whichever is not the primary focus of their practice, to gain a strong understanding of the CF population and facilitate transition should be included in the mentoring plan. Please note that the RFA includes a LEAPP program description and draft schedule of content to be included in LEAPP that you may find useful in developing the high-level mentoring plan.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Please provide two (2) CV's as part of this submission. One CV for the APP applicant and one CV for the clinical mentor. The following information should be included:

- Contact Information
- Work Experience
- Education
- Professional Skills

OTHER SUPPORT

Complete and upload an "Other Support" form, for all key project personnel, beginning with the Principal Investigator. There is no page limitation.

APPENDICES (IF APPLICABLE)

Appendices are restricted to the following category:

- Other pertinent materials or documentation that showcase the applicant's qualifications and commitment to CF care.

Validation and Submission

Prior to selecting "**Sign & Submit to AIO**", please complete a thorough review of the entire application. The "**Sign & Submit to AIO**" button will trigger validation on all required fields and identify any upload errors or incomplete fields. Upon selecting Sign & Submit to AIO, the ability to edit the application will be locked pending review and approval by your AIO.

After selecting "**Sign & Submit to AIO**", the applicant will receive an email asking them to sign the application Face Page electronically using Adobe Sign. Once signed by the PI, the Face Page will then be routed to the AIO contact that is listed on the application for review and signature.

To ensure the application is fully signed and submitted ahead of the Application Deadline for this program, please be sure to complete the application, and begin the Sign & Submit to AIO process in advance of the 5:00 PM EST deadline. The status of your application will display "Submitted" once fully signed, to indicate that your application has been received by CFF.

XI. Other Information

Please review the below attached documents (starting on page 12) which offer more background information regarding this program, as well as the work completed to inform the creation of this fellowship:

- LEAPP CF Fellowship Program Description
- LEAPP Curriculum Topics/Draft Schedule

XII. Contact Information

For technical support and program/content information:

Primary CFF GCMA Office contact Erik Warnke ewarnke@cff.org and grants@cff.org or 301-841-2614

Secondary CFF GCMA Office contact Edwin Gregorian at egregorian@cff.org or 301-841-2614

For programmatic questions:

Cynthia George, MSN, FNP at cgeorge@cff.org

Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Provider CF Fellowship Program (LEAPP)

BACKGROUND

For over 50 years, the CF Foundation (CFF) has worked to ensure that people with CF and their families benefit from high-quality specialized CF care with a multidisciplinary healthcare team. In recent years, many CF Centers have experienced challenges in maintaining the CF provider workforce due to the national shortage of pediatric and adult pulmonologists trained in CF care, and an increasing number of patients detected by newborn screening (NBS) and a growing adult CF population. While most CF centers are recruiting physicians, vacancies persist. Advanced Practice Providers, (APPs) or Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician's Assistants (PAs) have been providing CF care and leadership for decades and are valued members of the CF care team. APPs provide excellent care; are well suited for chronic care and have the potential to fill this gap. Still, some APPs face barriers to practicing at the full scope of their licensure. One significant barrier is the length of time for APPs new to CF to gain knowledge and competency in clinical care of CF patients.

Committed to training and maintaining a strong CF provider workforce, the CFF in 2018 convened a task force to evaluate the current provider workforce and make recommendations to address barriers to the full integration of APPs in CF care. Findings of this year-long evaluation indicated several opportunities to enhance support to APP practice in CF care including creating a CF core curriculum and establishing a postgraduate APP training program. Based on the results of the task force, the CF Foundation developed the Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Providers in CF Fellowship Program (LEAPP). The pilot for the two-year Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Providers in CF Fellowship Program (LEAPP) was launched in June 2021 and will conclude in May 2023. Thirteen APPs were selected and have found the program has provided them with greater knowledge, skills, and confidence in their CF practice.

The Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Provider CF Fellowship Program is intended to provide an opportunity to complete a CF curriculum and obtain structured mentorship to develop clinical expertise in CF; however, completion of this Program does not result in additional formal credentials and is not accredited by any training/education body or licensing board.

LEAPP CF Fellowship Program Description

Aim of the LEAPP CF Fellowship program: to recruit and retain Advanced Practice Providers in comprehensive outpatient CF care by providing in-depth, structured post graduate education and training in CF and promote lifelong learning.

Length of the Fellowship: 24 months

Eligibility: this program is appropriate for early career APPs, currently practicing in a CF program, with 2 to 24 months of CF experience. Experienced APPs not currently involved in CF care and those primarily focused on inpatient CF care are also eligible to apply if their home institution has immediate career opportunities in the CF outpatient clinic. All applicants must be employed and fully credentialed at their CF center at the time the program commences.

Competency Based Core Curriculum: Core competencies outlined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) have been adapted as a framework for the LEAPP CF Fellowship competency driven core curriculum. The six core competencies are patient care, scientific knowledge, professionalism, communication, systems- based practice, and practice-based learning and quality improvement. Through in-depth structured learning and mentored clinical experience these competencies inform the objectives for the clinical and professional development of the APP throughout this Fellowship and their career. The curriculum contains a series of two week modules beginning with asynchronous or self directed learning through review of selected articles and web based presentations for each topic culminating with a virtual synchronous case-based discussion of the topic led by a national content expert from the CF Care Network.

Competency- based curriculum:

LEAPP Curriculum Primary Competency	Months 1- 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patient Care ● Scientific Knowledge ● Communication ● Intro to Systems Based Practice 	Months 7-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patient Care ● Scientific Knowledge ● Systems based Practice ● Intro to Practice Based Learning/Quality Improvement 	Months 13-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patient Care ● Scientific Knowledge ● Systems based Practice 	Months 19 – 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Systems based practice ● Professionalism ● Practice based learning/ quality improvement ● Communication
Ongoing Competency	Professionalism (off site professional mentor)	Communication Professionalism (off site professional mentor)	Communication Professionalism (off site professional mentor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patient Care ● Scientific Knowledge
Curriculum Focus	Guidelines based Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Genetics, diagnosis; NBS ● CRMS/CFTR-RD ● Maintaining lung health ● Partnerships for Care ● Imaging, labs, PFTs ● Exacerbations 	Guidelines based Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental Health ● Advanced Nutrition ● Diabetes ● Gender health ● Transition ● Modulator Therapy ● Genetic Therapies ● Research/Guideline 	Guidelines based Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ENT ● CF liver Disease ● ABPA, NTM, ● Advanced Lung Disease ● Advanced nutrition ● Bone density Vit D ● Transplant Referral ● Palliative Care ● Post-Transplant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning and applying the principles of quality improvement ● Leadership skills ● Systems based multidisciplinary practice
Curriculum instructional format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On site Mentored Clinical Practice ● Online- modules and assigned reading ● Bi-monthly webinars consisting of didactics, discussions, and case presentations. ● Fellow led case presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On site Mentored/Collaborative Clinical Practice ● Online- modules and assigned reading ● Bi-monthly webinars consisting of didactics, discussions, and case presentations. Fellow led case presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On site mentor Collaborative/Independent Clinical Practice ● Online- modules and assigned reading ● Bi-monthly webinars consisting of didactics, discussions, and case presentations ● Fellow led a case presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On site Collaborative/Independent Clinical Practice ● Monthly webinar ● Assigned readings ● Online-modules ● QI training and coaching ● Fellow Led quality improvement project and present at NACFC

NACFC	Attend NACFC 2023 Attend LEAPP Fellowship meeting		Attend NACFC 2024 Attend LEAPP Fellowship meeting	Attend NACFC 2025 Attend LEAPP Fellowship meeting for acknowledgement of completion /opportunity to present at NACFC
-------	---	--	---	--

Dedicated Mentorship: Dedicated mentorship will be provided to the fellows to support clinical training and professional networking for the duration of the fellowship. Fellows will be paired with a clinical mentor at their institution (experienced CF physician or APP) who will support the clinical training during the first 18 months. Fellows will also be paired with an experienced APP mentor from another CF center who will provide professional mentorship during the entire 24 months.

Clinical Training mentorship expectations:

- At least 4 hours per week outpatient CF care
- Periodically attend either the pediatric or adult CF center, whichever is not the primary focus of their practice.

Evaluation: assessment of programmatic elements along with competency self-assessments will be included

CONCLUSION

APPs play a crucial role in the care of people with CF and their families. With the current workforce challenges, that role is likely to expand. In order to provide optimal care for people with CF and families and experience a rewarding career as an APP, this competency-based Fellowship will provide APPs new to CF a strong foundation of knowledge, decision making skills and clinical experience to develop competency for entry level independent practice in CF.

Inquiries

For additional information, please contact Cynthia Brady, DNP, APRN, CPNP (brady@crccs.com), Jordan Dunitz, MD (dunit001@umn.edu), or Cynthia George, MSN, RN, FNP (cgeorge@cff.org).

LEAPP 2.0 Sample DRAFT Schedule

<p>COURSE CONTENT</p> <p>The 2 year LEAPP curriculum employs a synchronous and asynchronous learning format or “flipped classroom”. There are 4 courses containing Module content posted on the LEAPP CANVAS learning platform hosted by the University of Minnesota. Each of the 4 courses are 6 months long and contain 10-14 learning modules. Asynchronous learning of module content occurs independently during the 2-3 weeks before the synchronous learning webinars. Virtual “live” Synchronous sessions occur on zoom every 2-3 weeks. Fellows present cases on the module topic for discussion with content experts from the CF community. There is a quiz at the end of each module. Fellows present 2-3 cases per course. During the 4th course, fellows will lead a Quality Project using the Model for Improvement. Fellows will present final posters of their QI projects at NACFC in Seattle in 2025.</p>
<p>COURSE 1 Foundations of Cystic Fibrosis Care September 1, 2023 - March 9, 2024</p>
Module 1 - Introduction to the LEAPP CFF Fellowship
Module 2 - Introduction to Cystic Fibrosis Genetics
Module 3 - Newborn Screening and Cystic Fibrosis Diagnosis
Module 4 - Diagnosis and Management of CF-Related Syndromes
Module 5 - (NACFC Nov. 2-4. Phoenix) Partnership Enhancement Program (PEP) during NACFC – Wednesday November 1 st 8am – 3pm
Module 6 - Beginning CF Care: Supporting Families and Optimizing Nutrition
Module 7 - Maintaining Lung Health: Past, Present, and Future
Module 8 - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health in Children with CF
Module 9 - CF Radiology
Module 10 - Microbiology of the CF Lung: Evolution, Impact and Eradication
Module 11 - Pulmonary Exacerbations: Recognition and Treatment
Module 12 - The CF Foundation Patient Registry: A Driver for Improvement
Module 13 - Infection Control / PFTs
Module 14 - PEP Sustaining Session
Course Wrap Up
<p>COURSE CONTENT</p> <p>The 2 year LEAPP curriculum employs a synchronous and asynchronous learning format or “flipped classroom”. There are 4 courses containing Module content posted on the LEAPP CANVAS learning platform hosted by the University of Minnesota. Each of the 4 courses are 6 months long and contain 10-14 learning modules. Asynchronous learning of module content occurs independently during the 2-3 weeks before the synchronous learning webinars. Virtual “live” Synchronous sessions occur on zoom every 2-3 weeks. Fellows present cases on the module topic for discussion with content experts from the CF community. There is a quiz at the end of each module. Fellows present 2-3 cases per course. During the 4th course, fellows will lead a Quality Project using the Model for Improvement. Fellows will present final posters of their QI projects at NACFC in Seattle in 2025.</p>
<p>COURSE 2 Cystic Fibrosis Management Across the Lifespan March 10 - August 31, 2024</p>
Module 1 - Mental Health, Anxiety, and Depression
Module 2 - Common GI Manifestations of CF
Module 3 - Adult Nutrition and Advanced Topics in Nutrition

Module 4 - CFTR Modulator Therapy: Effect on the Lungs
Module 5 - CFTR Modulator Therapy: Impact on GI and Other Systems
Module 6 - Treatment for Everyone: Genetic Therapies
Module 7 - Adult Guidelines: Transition/Navigating the Healthcare System
Module 8 - Reproduction, Sexual Health and Gender Identity
Module 9 - Cystic Fibrosis-Related Diabetes (CFRD)
Module 10 - Research Therapeutics Development Network (TDN)
Module 11 - Guidelines: The Art and Science of Clinical Practice
Course Wrap Up
COURSE 3 Advanced Topics in Cystic Fibrosis and Introduction to Leadership Skills September 1, 2024 - March 1, 2024
Module 1 - ENT Guidelines
Module 2- (NACFC 9/26-28, 2024, Boston) – Wednesday 9/25
In person leadership and networking module
Module 3 - CF Related Liver Disease
COURSE CONTENT The 2 year LEAPP curriculum employs a synchronous and asynchronous learning format or “flipped classroom”. There are 4 courses containing Module content posted on the LEAPP CANVAS learning platform hosted by the University of Minnesota. Each of the 4 courses are 6 months long and contain 10-14 learning modules. Asynchronous learning of module content occurs independently during the 2-3 weeks before the synchronous learning webinars. Virtual “live” Synchronous sessions occur on zoom every 2-3 weeks. Fellows present cases on the module topic for discussion with content experts from the CF community. There is a quiz at the end of each module. Fellows present 2-3 cases per course. During the 4th course, fellows will lead a Quality Project using the Model for Improvement. Fellows will present final posters of their QI projects at NACFC in Seattle in 2025.
Module 4 - Interprofessional Quality Improvement Strategies in Cystic Fibrosis Care
Module 5 - Nontuberculous Mycobacteria
Module 6 - Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis, Asthma, Bronchiolitis
Module 7 - Vitamin D and Bone Disease in Cystic Fibrosis
Module 8 - Advanced Lung Disease
Module 9 - Lung Transplant Planning and Referral
Module 10 - Models of Palliative Care
Module 11 - Post Lung Transplant Care
Course Wrap Up
COURSE 4 Quality Improvement and Leadership March 2, 2025 - August 15, 2025
Module 1 - Framework for Improvement and Setting Aims
Module 2 - Defining Aims and Establishing Measures
Module 3 - Identifying and Planning First Tests of Change
Module 4 - Testing Changes with PDSA Cycles Part 1
Module 5 - Testing Changes with PDSA Cycles Part 2
Module 6 - Nuts and Bolts of CF Center Leadership and Accreditation
Module 7 - Organizing and Sharing the Story of Your Improvement Work
Module 8 - Implementation and Sustaining Improvement

COURSE CONTENT

The 2 year LEAPP curriculum employs a synchronous and asynchronous learning format or “flipped classroom”. There are 4 courses containing Module content posted on the LEAPP CANVAS learning platform hosted by the University of Minnesota. Each of the 4 courses are 6 months long and contain 10-14 learning modules. Asynchronous learning of module content occurs independently during the 2-3 weeks before the synchronous learning webinars. Virtual “live” Synchronous sessions occur on zoom every 2-3 weeks. Fellows present cases on the module topic for discussion with content experts from the CF community. There is a quiz at the end of each module. Fellows present 2-3 cases per course. During the 4th course, fellows will lead a Quality Project using the Model for Improvement. Fellows will present final posters of their QI projects at NACFC in Seattle in 2025.

Module 9 - Perspectives on Leadership in CF Care

Module 10 - Celebrations and Sharing of Work

Course Wrap Up/Graduation NACFC 2025 Seattle - Wednesday before

2023 NACFC November 2-4, Phoenix

2024 NACFC September 26-28, Boston