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UNDER SECRETARY
FOR MASSHEALTH

June 9, 2026

Chair Michael J. Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Cindy Friedman
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care
Financing
State House, Room 313
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John Lawn
House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care
Financing
State House, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John Velis
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Mental
Health, Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 513
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Mindy Domb
House Chair, Joint Committee on Mental
Health, Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs,

Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021, line item 1599-2026 requires that MassHealth report the following information on the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner fellowship program: (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures. Please find this information in the attached report.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Nordberg at Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Levine
cc: Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA

FY'26 Legislative Report: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program

In calendar year 2023, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing, a program of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan GSN) and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MLCHC) launched the \$11.6 million Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program for recent PMHNP Graduates and current PMHNP Students funded through item 1599-2026 of the acts of 2021. See appendix I for authorizing statutory language. The PMHNP Fellowship Program aims to increase the community health center (CHC) PMHNP workforce pipeline and improve access to psychiatric care in CHCs, including by supporting recruitment of fellows with linguistic and cultural competencies responsive to the populations those CHCs serve. See appendix II for PMHNP Fellowship Program eligibility and prioritization information.

This report includes information on (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures.

I. Program Activities to Date (Including Number of Applicants and Participants):

The program is being implemented in multiple cohorts.

- Cohort 1 (FY24): The CHC Request for Proposal (RFP)¹ and PMHNP Fellow applications ran concurrently from August 14 to September 25, 2023. A total of five CHCs applied.
 - Total CHCs funded: 3
 - Total Fellow slots approved: 10
 - 7 Graduates
 - 3 Students
 - Total contracted funds: \$840,477
 - Total Fellow applicants: 27
 - 12 Graduates
 - 15 Students
 - Total Fellows placed: 7
 - 4 Graduates
 - 3 Students
- Cohort 2 (FY25): The CHC RFP and PMHNP Fellow applications ran concurrently from February 28 to April 1, 2024. A total of fourteen health centers applied. Of the fourteen health centers, five were previously approved in Cohort 1 and requested additional fellows under Cohort 2.
 - Total CHCs funded: 14
 - Total Fellow slots approved: 29
 - 23 Graduates
 - 6 Students

- Total contracted funds: \$3,936,687
- Total Fellow applicants: 56
 - 30 Graduates
 - 26 Students
- Total Fellows placed: 24
 - 19 Graduates
 - 5 Students
- Cohort 3 (FY26): The CHC RFP was open from August 28 to September 30, 2024. Ten CHCs applied. Of the ten CHCs, six were previously funded in Cohort 2. Applications for PMHNP Fellows were open from January 6 to January 31, 2025.
 - Total CHCs funded: 9
 - Total Fellow slots approved: 15
 - 12 Graduates
 - 3 Students
 - Total approved funds: \$2,560,368
 - Total Fellow applicants: 109
 - 62 Graduates
 - 47 Students
 - Total Fellows placed: 15
 - 12 Graduates
 - 3 Students

II. Participant retention:

The first cohort of four Graduate Fellows (from FY24) completed their 12-month Fellowship during the spring of calendar year 2025. One Graduate Fellow departed the program prior to completion. Of Cohort 2 Graduate Fellows seventeen (17) completed their 12-month Fellowship in 2025, and two Cohort 2 Graduate Fellows will complete their Fellowship in the spring of 2026. Cohort 3 Graduate Fellows will complete their Fellowships in the summer of 2026.

- Cohort 1:
 - Graduate Fellows (4)
 - Completed their service commitment: 3
 - Total hired as a full-time employee: 1
 - Other positions accepted: 3¹
 - Student Fellows (3)
 - Transitioned to a Graduate Fellow position: 1
 - Did not transition to a Graduate Fellow position: 2
- Cohort 2:
 - Graduate Fellows (19)
 - Participants on approved leave: 2
 - Completed their service commitment: 17
 - Total hired as a full-time employee: 12
 - Other positions accepted: 5

¹ One Fellow chose to leave the program early.

- Student Fellows (5)
 - Transitioned to a Graduate Fellow position: 1
 - Did not transition to a Graduate Fellow position: 4
- Cohort 3:
 - Graduate Fellows (12)
 - Participants on approved leave: 1
 - Currently participating in the Fellowship: 11
 - Total hired as a full-time employee: pending
 - Other positions accepted: pending
 - Student Fellows (3)
 - Currently participating in the Fellowship: 3

Retention incentives for PMHNP Fellow participants:

Funding Category	Available Funding
Available funding for CHCs to go towards a retention incentive for Graduate Fellows who become permanent hires of the CHC after their 12-month service commitment ends.	\$10,000/Fellow
Grant incentive to support preceptor development. Graduate Fellows who complete the 12-month service commitment and become permanent hires of the CHC or maintain their employment. Graduate Fellows will be eligible to receive an incentive to participate in a preceptor training through UMass Chan GSN to prepare them to serve in the role of preceptor for future Fellows.	\$5,500 per Graduate Fellow/year for up to 2 years (up to \$11,000 per Graduate Fellow over 2 years)

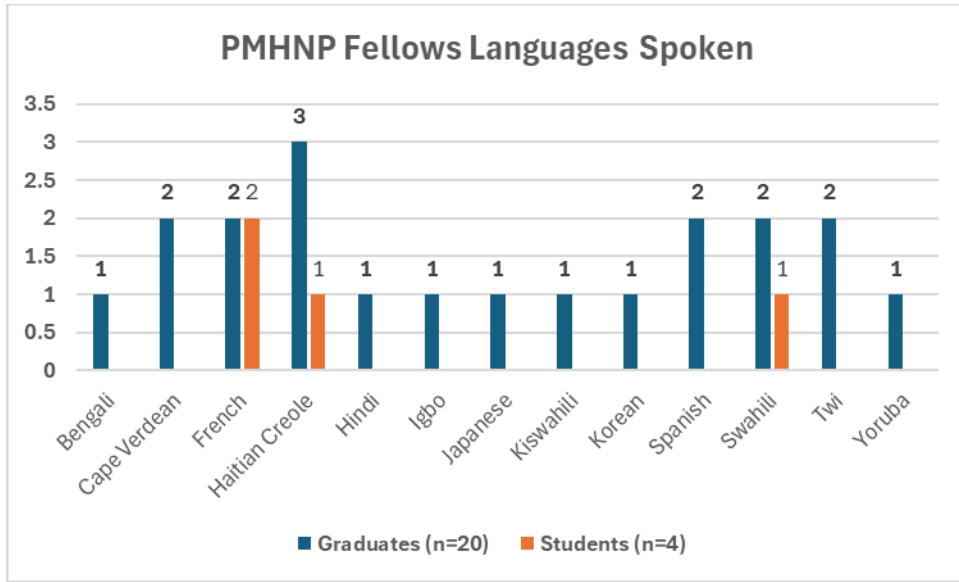
III. Efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners:

UMass Chan GSN and MLCHC have worked to expand the PMHNP pipeline serving CHCs by recruiting bilingual candidates and candidates whose linguistic, cultural, or community backgrounds may support care in the populations served by participating CHCs. The program maintains comprehensive demographic tracking, analyzing alignment between Fellow candidates and CHC service communities through detailed data on language capabilities, race, and ethnicity for both placed Fellows and the applicant pool. Early results demonstrate successful matching between placed Fellows and the communities they serve in language capabilities and cultural competencies.

All PMHNP Fellow applicants were asked to self-identify their non-English spoken languages, race, and ethnicity. Applicants were also asked to respond yes, if they identify as Hispanic or Latino.

The demographic outcomes of Graduate and Student Fellows who were matched to a CHC are presented on pages 5 and 6 as of December 2025. A complete comparison of Graduate and Student Applicant demographic data is provided on pages 7 and 8.

Figure 1 PMHNP Fellows Linguistic Diversity matched to CHCs



* Note: Some Fellows spoke more than one non-English language.

Figure 2 PMHNP Fellow Racial Diversity matched to CHCs

* Note: Some Fellows identified with more than one race

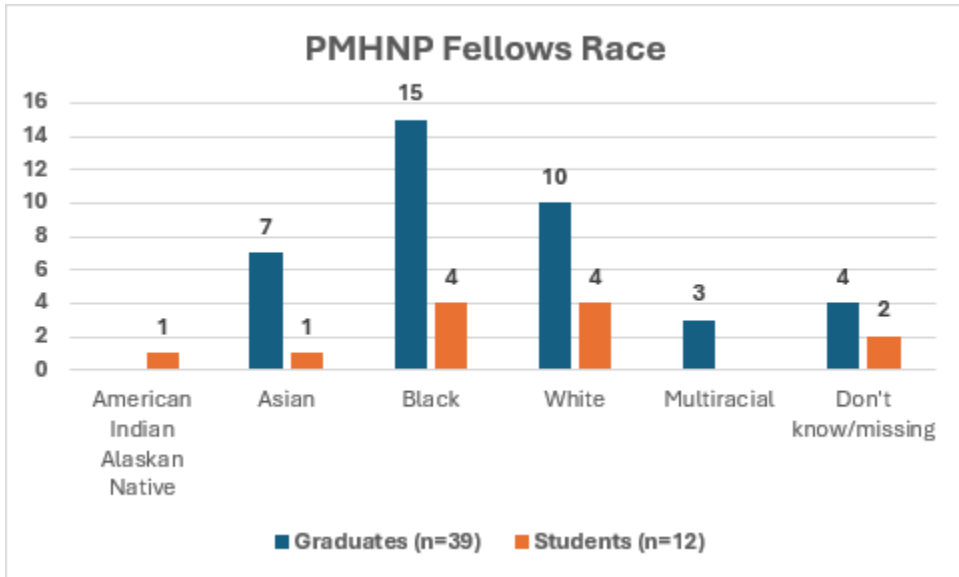
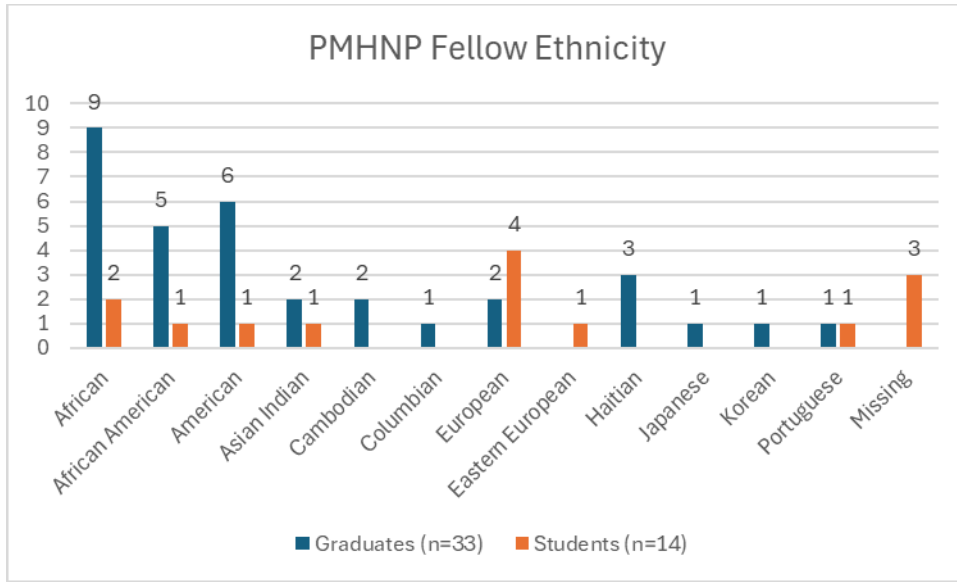
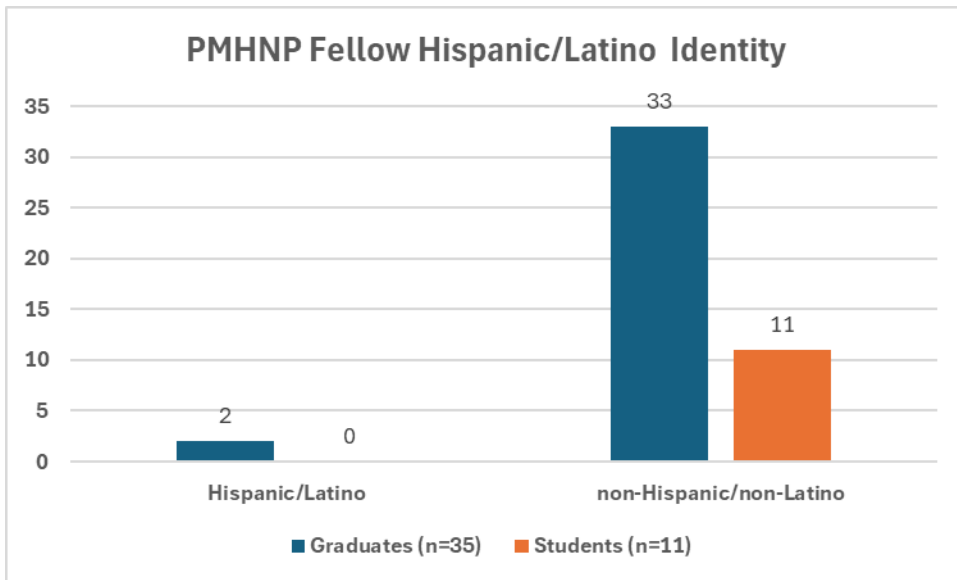


Figure 3 PMHNP Fellows Ethnic Diversity matched to CHCs



* Note: Some Fellows identified with more than one ethnicity

Figure 4 PMHNP Fellows Hispanic or Latino Diversity, matched to CHCs *

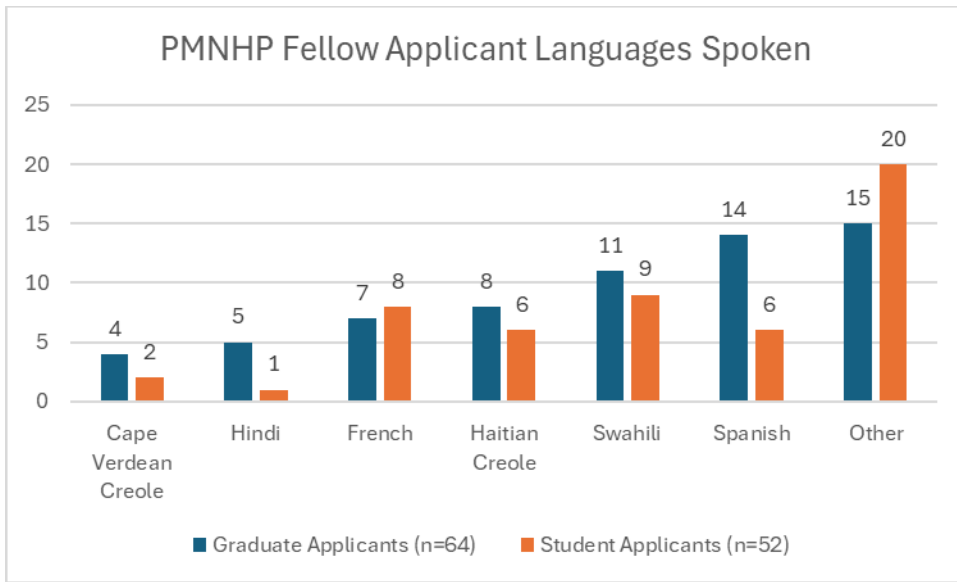


* Please note, 12 Graduate Fellow applicants who identified as Hispanic/ Latino, were matched to a CHC. Most applicants withdrew their application or declined the offer to participate in the program. Figure 4 reflects participating Fellows, while Figure 8 below reflects all applicants.

*Please note, 6 Student applicants identified as Hispanic/Latino. One was referred to the Graduate application, 3 were ineligible based on availability or location, the remaining 2 withdrew their application from the program.

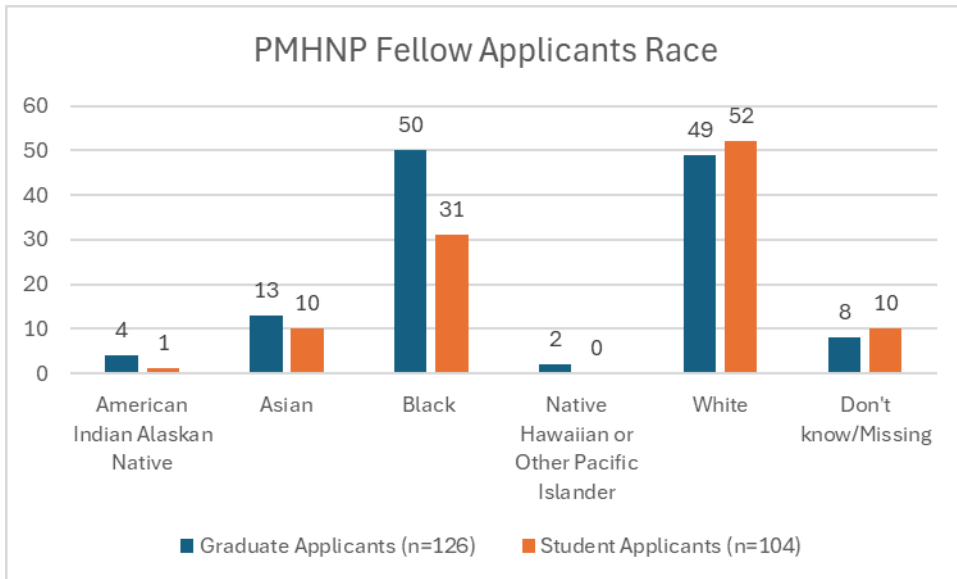
The demographic outcomes of applicants (Graduates and Students) seeking a placement with a CHC is provided on pages 7 and 8 as of December 2025.

Figure 5 PMHNP Fellow Linguistic Diversity – All Applicants



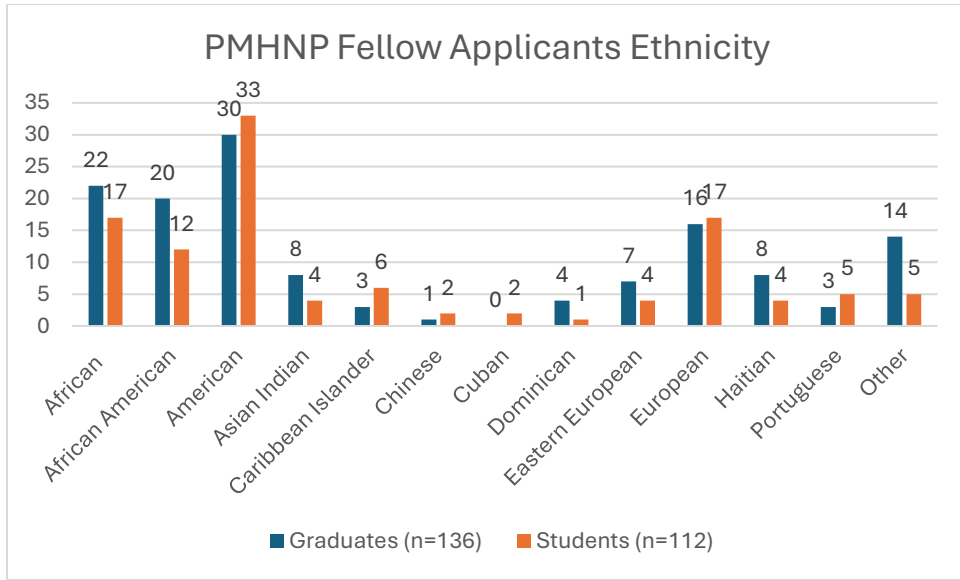
* Note: Some Applicants spoke more than one non-English language.

Figure 6 PMHNP Fellow Racial Diversity – All Applicants



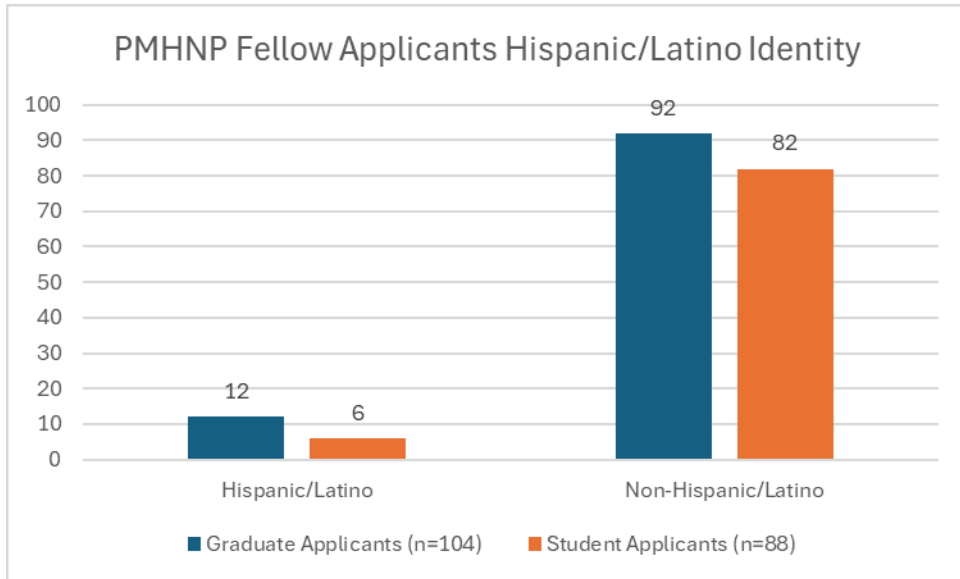
* Note: Some Applicants identified with more than one race

Figure 7 PMHNP Fellow Ethnic Diversity – All Applicants



* Note: Some Applicants identified with more than one ethnicity

Figure 8 PMHNP Fellow Hispanic or Latino Diversity – All Applicants



IV. Program expenditures:

The UMass Chan GSN ISA has a maximum obligation of \$11.6 Million. Of these funds, \$7,667,648 are allocated as pass-through funds to participating CHCs to support their PMHNP Fellowship Programs for both Graduate and Student Fellows. The remaining funds totaling \$3,932,352 supports weekly training and education (didactics) for PMHNP Graduate Fellows provided by UMass Chan GSN, and administrative costs for the grant, including administrative payments to the MLCHC. **Total funds paid to UMass Chan GSN through FY25: \$7,288,614**

Appendix I: Chapter 102 of the acts of 2021

An Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs 1599-2026. "...For a reserve to enhance and expand access to mental and behavioral health supports and services and community-based primary care; provided, that funds in this item shall be administered by the executive office of health and human services; provided further, that not less than \$11,600,000 shall be expended for a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner fellowship program to recruit and retain psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners at community health centers; provided further, that annually, not later than April 1, the executive office shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery and the joint committee on health care financing that shall detail: (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures;..."

Appendix II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program Eligibility

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program aims to recruit, educate, and retain PMHNPs at community health centers (CHCs). All Massachusetts' CHCs that meet the criteria to qualify as a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a hospital-licensed health center, or an FQHC look-alike are eligible to apply for funding. Current PMHNP Students and recent Graduates are eligible to apply for placement. Student Fellows will complete a semester-long placement while Graduate Fellows will be under a 12-month service commitment.

CHC Prioritization

CHCs that serve diverse communities, rural communities, or are in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area ([HPSA](#)) or a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area are strongly encouraged to apply. At least one rural CHC will be funded during each year of the program.

CHC Selection

CHCs will be selected and evaluated for funding based on their demonstrated capacity to provide the following:

- 1) A commitment to hire Graduate PMHNP fellows who have passed the national certification exam by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, have a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Advance Practice Nursing License in good standing with the Board of Registration in Nursing, and are eligible to apply for Mass Controlled Substance License/DEA by the start of the Program.
- 2) A commitment to building culturally diverse psychiatric capacity both by prioritizing hiring qualified PMHNP candidates who reflect the patient population's cultural and linguistic backgrounds and providing services to communities that are underserved by limited access to behavioral healthcare.
- 3) Capacity and capability to precept all Fellows.
- 4) Capacity to provide adequate prescribing Preceptor support for PMHNP Graduate Fellows.
- 5) Ability to ensure adequate patient panels for Fellows in terms of size, diversity, and clinical complexity.
- 6) Ability to ensure adequate care team support (e.g., medical assistants, registered nurses, community health workers, behavioral health clinicians, psychiatrists, or experienced PMHNPs for consult support, and support staff) for Fellows.
- 7) Ability to provide adequate physical space (e.g., exam/treatment rooms) for Fellows.
- 8) Ability to provide coverage and systems to ensure that the clinical needs of patients are met in the Fellows' absence (e.g., sick day, vacation time, etc.).
- 9) Ability to ensure that Fellows work as part of a multi-disciplinary care team.

Fellow Selection

All Fellow applicants must meet the minimum eligibility criteria listed below. Graduates and Students who are bi-lingual and/or reflect the population served by a community health center (CHC) (e.g., languages spoken, lived experience in urban or rural underserved communities) are strongly encouraged to apply.

- **Graduate Fellow Minimum Eligibility:**
 - Completed a PMHNP program
 - Graduation dates within 18 months of application opening will receive priority.
 - Licensed registered nurse in Massachusetts and in good standing.
 - Are either board certified as a PMHNP with an APRN license in Massachusetts OR are eligible and will soon sit for board certification in Massachusetts.
 - Fellow applicants who are not board certified at the time of application must be eligible to apply for a Mass Controlled Substance License/DEA prior to the fellowship start date.

- **Student Fellow Minimum Eligibility:**
 - Licensed registered nurse in Massachusetts and in good standing.
 - Are currently enrolled part-time or full-time in a PMHNP academic program.
 - Have approval from their school's program director or coordinator to pursue this placement.