

## HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency Fellowship Program (ANE-NPRF)

North Dakota State University (NDSU) was awarded a HRSA Nurse Practitioner Residency/Fellowship grant in 2019 and again in 2023. This is a collaborative project between NDSU and Essentia Health. The program is in addition to Essentia's Transition to Practice program and provides newly graduated **rural Advanced Practice Providers (APPs)** additional intensive training and learning opportunities. The first fellows began the program in October 2019. The purpose of the grant is to better prepare new APP graduates for rural practice and enhance job satisfaction and retention.

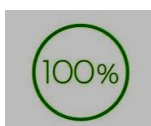
### NUMBERS TO DATE 2019-2025

**1,370** clinical rotation hours completed by ANE fellows

**42,456** rural patients served by ANE fellows

**26** ANE fellows graduated from the program

**11,000** contact hours have been claimed by health professionals



Of ANE clinical fellowship hours completed  
in rural and/or medically underserved areas



Of ANE fellows remain employed in rural and/or  
medically underserved communities

### PROGRAM TIMELINE

August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2027



*"The highlight of the program was the in-person procedural workshop, meeting colleagues during the clinical rotations, and making friends in the fellowship where we can share our struggles and support one another." - ANE Fellow*

## IMPACT AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

### Why This Program Matters:

Preparing and retaining newly graduated APPs to practice in rural areas remains a challenge; yet, rural residents rely on APPs as their main primary care provider. Rural APPs practice with greater autonomy and a wider scope of practice than providers in urban settings. These rural APPs serve vulnerable populations that are older, poorer, and have higher prevalence of multiple chronic health conditions.

**Improved transitional experiences for APPs have a direct impact on patient care, outcomes, and costs.**

NDSU School of Nursing supports new graduates for rural practice through enhanced academic content, simulation, and immersive clinical experiences. This program is supported by funding from HRSA. Continued investment ensures that NDSU School of Nursing can continue developing **rural-ready practitioners** to serve underserved communities. In addition, HRSA grant funding with support from Essentia Health Foundation and NDSU alumni Foundation has allowed the NDSU School of Nursing to host a free yearly mental health conference to providers in the region. Attendance at the conference **increased over 300%** over the past six years and **350 health professionals** attended in 2025.

Through this program, **federal dollars directly support rural APPs** while **increasing access to primary care and improving health outcomes** for the rural and underserved patients they serve.

