

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (NPQIC)

Partner organization website: www.npqic.org

Partner organization brief description:

NPQIC is a statewide collaborative that seeks to improve the delivery of and access to evidence-based and equitable health care for all Nebraska mothers and newborns. The organization was formed by a group of statewide stakeholders in February 2015, and in September 2022, NPQIC became one of 27 perinatal quality collaboratives to be funded by the CDC. NPQIC works with providers and nursing leaders at birthing facilities across the state of Nebraska to make changes such as: improve processes and systems, ensure implementation of up-to-date clinical protocols, and review facility-level patient data for potential improvements.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email: Kara Foster, kara.foster@unmc.edu

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

- Hospital recognition program: develop a recognition program to reward and incentivize birthing facilities to participate in NPQIC initiatives and improve patient care delivery based on existing models
- Preparation and facilitation of webinars for provider teams: source content/speakers for monthly birth equity educational webinars and develop evaluation surveys for webinars
- Newsletter writeups: source relevant content for our monthly newsletter and build out the newsletter design in mailchimp
- Data brief: contribute to the development of a data brief around Nebraska's infant and maternal outcomes for the fall 2023 NE Maternal and Infant Mortality Summit

Timeframe of proposed activities:

The data brief would need to be completed by early October. Monthly newsletters are sent out the first week of each month. Webinar development would be completed 1-2 months in advance of scheduled webinars (ongoing, monthly). The hospital recognition program could be completed by December 2023.

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

A hospital recognition program would be a great value-add to NPQIC, as it would provide a visible way to reward facilities for opting-in to our quality improvement initiatives. As we roll out a new Birth Equity initiative, it will be vital for us to provide relevant, valuable content in our monthly webinars to support teams across the state in implementing birth equity protocols. Similarly, our monthly newsletter provides pertinent information to providers and nursing leaders across Nebraska. Finally, the upcoming Maternal and Infant Mortality Summit will draw together clinical leaders, policymakers, and multisector stakeholders to develop a plan for tackling inequities. A data brief containing crucial data and other insights will be issued to invitees and shared widely across the state to ensure wide access to the needs, barriers, and tools involved.

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

A student can glean many useful skills from working on these activities, including: real-time experience in gathering facts and communicating them appropriately with the intended audience; composing professional publications; program development; public health education for clinical audiences; and critical thinking to determine which details are needed to tell the story of the maternal and infant mortality inequity crisis. The student will gain experience working with an interdisciplinary team, in addition to having exposure to many state and local partners in the maternal and infant health field.

Skill sets of students requested:

Excellent writing and communication skills; self-starter; time management skills; ability to work independently given parameters of the task; passion/interest in maternal child health; health communication and data visualization skills; familiarity with Zoom, Microsoft Word, Excel, and Forms. Experience creating infographics a plus!

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

NPQIC does not have a physical office space. We are a small team, spread out across the state. Therefore, we work virtually 95% of the time. Our team conducts much of our work independently, and we meet regularly over Zoom to touch base on projects and work collaboratively. The student will be invited to join us in person for our annual NPQIC Summit in September and the Maternal and Infant Mortality Summit in October (both in Omaha), as well as any other in-person convenings that may arise.