Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

What is a teaching health center?
The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program is supported by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration agency. While most residencies are hospital-based, in a THC, accreditation is held by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). FQHCs are safety-net organizations providing care for underserved, low income, and often racially and ethnically diverse populations. The goal of the THCGME program is to train physicians who will likely go on to work in these organizations and with these populations.

Where will I have my continuity clinic?
The continuity clinic is located at the LifeLong William Jenkins Health Center, a brand new, state-of-the-art outpatient health center at 150 Harbour Way in Richmond, CA. Our three story health center has primary care for all ages with integrated behavioral health, dental, and urgent care, as well as on-site lab, x-ray imaging and wellness center. Residents care for their patient panel in an 18 exam room clinic space with a team room so they can work side by side with faculty. Residents have access to a resident workspace and lounge, conference spaces and sunny balconies.

What is LifeLong’s patient population like?
Our Federally Qualified Community Health Center cares for more than 66,000 underserved individuals of all ages in West Contra Costa, Alameda, and Marin Counties each year with medical, dental, behavioral health, and social services. Eighty-six percent of patients live at or below the Federal Poverty Level, 80% are insured by Medicaid and 10% are uninsured. Forty percent of the patient population is Hispanic/Latino and approximately 25% of patients are African American.

What opportunities will I have as a resident?
Residents will gain experience with a variety of innovative care modalities aimed to meet the needs of our complex patients.

- **Integrated Behavioral Health** – At our health centers, behavioral healthcare services are integrated with primary care. LCSWs, Community Health Workers, Case Managers, and psychiatrists will work with the provider to care for the patient.
- **House Calls** – We operate a growing house calls program for homebound seniors. Patients are supported by a Community Health Worker, RN and physician to receive the care that they need.
- **Medication Assisted Treatment** – All residents will obtain and use their x-waiver to prescribe buprenorphine treatment through our MAT program.
- **Street Medicine** – LifeLong operates a street medicine program for individuals experiencing homelessness. Residents will have opportunities to participate in our program.
- **Telehealth** – To improve patient access to behavioral health services, LifeLong has implemented an in-house telehealth program for patients including counseling and psychiatry.
- **Group Medical Visits** – LifeLong has a robust Centering Prenatal and Centering Parenting program and offers diabetes and other chronic conditions group visits to patients.
- **Urgent Care** – Residents will have opportunities to work within an ambulatory urgent care setting at one of LifeLong’s three urgent or immediate care centers.
- **Complementary & Alternative Medicine** – LifeLong offers acupuncture and chiropractic services, integrated within the primary care clinic, at multiple sites.
Does LifeLong have other residency programs?
The Family Medicine program is LifeLong's only medical residency, so it is considered an “unopposed program”. LifeLong residents will have the opportunity to work with other residents on inpatient rotations.

Will I have other opportunities to impact the health of the community?
Yes! Residents will have the opportunity to join LifeLong Medical Care in our advocacy and policy efforts. LifeLong works tirelessly in collaboration with community organizations to advocate for the needs of community health centers at every level of government. We work with our local community health center network and our state Primary Care Association to advocate on behalf of our patients and communities to influence local, state and national policies. Residents will have opportunities to attend local and regional meetings to learn and participate in these efforts.

What is LifeLong’s relationship with the community?
LifeLong’s mission is to advocate for the continuous improvement in the health of our community. Our story began more than 40 years ago in 1976, in Berkeley, California, where the senior population faced a growing, unmet need for health services. A small group of “Gray Panthers” created an innovative solution—a milestone in elder care—the Over 60 Health Center, LifeLong’s first health center. We have continued our commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations in the East Bay and in doing so, we are proud of our long-standing and strong relationships with our local leaders, businesses, schools and social service organizations.

What procedures will I learn?
Residents will receive ample training in family medicine outpatient procedures in the areas of dermatology, gynecology, and orthopedics. All residents will participate in two Outpatient Procedures rotations.

What role will I play in quality improvement efforts?
You will play a key role in prevention and chronic conditions management. You will be trained to approach issues like vaccination and diabetes management from an evidence-based perspective that ensures our patients have the best chance at healthful outcomes in these areas. Are you a lover of big data? There is ample opportunity to connect to our Quality Improvement team and access a robust suite of analytic tools to help you understand and support the health of your patients.

What are the salary and benefits?
Residents are offered a competitive salary and benefits package including pre-tax health, dental, life, and vision plans. Benefits include 20 paid vacation days and 12 paid sick days per year. For more details, please see the benefits information on our website.

How do I apply?
We offer six positions each year. Applicants can apply through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Applicants are selected through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). Applicants must be either a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America. We currently do not sponsor any visas. For more details, please visit our website.