

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITIONIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is work of a professional nature involving in-service training and counseling of the staff of the W.I.C. Program in nutrition for maternal and child health; individual and group counseling of the W.I.C. recipients to include assessment, screening, care plan, education, case review and recordkeeping. The W.I.C. Program is a supplemental food and nutrition education program for women, infants and children from low income families who have nutritional risks. An incumbent of this position will be required to assess the nutritional needs of clients, write prescriptions for food packages, and may provide education and counseling needs of clients. The work is performed under the general supervision of the W.I.C. Coordinator.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Provides nutrition counseling to clients and their families regarding foods available through the Program, nutrients provided by these foods, and additional food required to assure satisfaction of complete dietary needs;
2. Assesses nutritional needs of clients by comparing dietary intake against standards for nutrition of normal individuals taking into account medical regimens, drug therapy, or physical limitations;
3. Plans and conducts in-service training programs in nutritional care for program staff and other interest persons;
4. Schedules medical evaluations of program participants to maximize efficient utilization of nutrition program;
5. Conducts individual and group counseling on maternal and child health nutrition;
6. Advises clients' families and staff on available community resources in foods and nutrition such as home-delivered meals, federal nutrition and food stamp programs, and Health and Social Services;
7. Does related work as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of nutrition and diet therapy; thorough knowledge of the relationship of nutrient intake to health and to restorative and rehabilitative treatment; thorough knowledge of how various disease states and medical regimens alter nutrient needs; thorough knowledge of processes involved in menu planning, marketing and food preparation, and ability to advise on organizing and directing these processes effectively, efficiently and economically; good knowledge of the special needs and problems of program clients in relation to services provided by the program; working knowledge of modern methods and techniques of community organization and service delivery; ability to assess nutritional needs of women, infants and children; ability to counsel clients relative to their nutritional needs; ability to collect data and maintain records; ability to establish effective working relationships with a wide variety of people, including staff, clients and the public; ability to understand and follow complex oral and written instructions; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITIONIST (Cont'd)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- EITHER: (A) A Bachelor's degree in Nutritional Sciences, Community Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, Foods and Nutrition, or Public Health Nutrition from a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices;
- OR: (B) A Bachelor's degree and certification as a Registered Dietitian;
- OR: (C) A Bachelor's degree in Home Economics with a minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours in nutrition with grades of C or better in the areas of basic or general nutrition; or nutrition in the life cycle or human nutrition; or community nutrition or maternal or infant nutrition.

NOTE: Possession of a valid Class D New York State Driver's license at time of appointment.

HL0209

ADOPTED: 09/13/87

REVISED: 12/21/87

07/01/91

12/27/93