

NUTRITIONIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under supervision of a higher level professional nutritionist, incumbents provide nutrition services and nutrition education to individuals enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Incumbents conduct individual and participant centered group nutrition education programs, in order to improve participants' health and nutrition and to promote appropriate growth and development. Participates in in-service training programs for agency staff and may supervise paraprofessionals or students who assist in nutrition education activities, and subordinate clerical and technical personnel. Work is performed in an automated systems environment. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Interviews participants and conducts a complete nutrition risk assessments to determine WIC program eligibility based on established nutritional risk criteria and applicable Federal and State regulations;

Prescribes, authorizes, tailors, issues and reissues WIC food packages authorizations based on nutritional needs as well as cultural, economic and life-style patterns;

Confers with physicians and other health-care professionals to ensure that formulas and special food packages requiring medical documentation are appropriate and meet the specific health needs of the participant;

Instructs participants on how to purchase appropriate foods and how to manage budgets so available funds are best utilized to improve the participants' nutritional status;

Conducts on-site anthropometric measurements and plots heights and weights on standardized growth charts and evaluates for abnormal growth patterns;

Conducts and documents participant-centered nutrition education (individual/family sessions or facilitated group discussions);

Ensures that appropriate and consistent nutrition and health education literature is available for participants;

Utilizes NYS WIC program protocols for documentation via manual and automated WIC program certification systems;

Educates participants, according to their individual needs, in the basic principles of nutrition, proper food selection, storage and preparation, in order to promote the consumption of good nutritious foods at reasonable cost;

Identifies program participants with special needs and makes/documents appropriate referrals to other community health and social services agencies, including food assistance programs, in order to correlate nutrition care with provision of total health and human services;

Attends mandatory NYS WIC program trainings;

EXAMPLES OF WORK (continued):

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the principles of nutrition, specifically maternal and child nutrition and breastfeeding; skill in the application of current scientific principles of nutrition; ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; ability to accept and utilize supervision; ability to teach the principles of nutrition to lay and professional groups; ability to deal with people effectively and to receive their cooperation; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; ability to read, write, speak, understand and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential tasks of the position; sensitivity to persons of differing cultural backgrounds and traditions; initiative; resourcefulness; good judgment; integrity; good organizational skills; tact; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) certification as a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) issued by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics or (b) Bachelor's Degree* in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nutrition Science, Foods and Nutrition, or closely related field or (c) Bachelor's degree and satisfactory completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) recognized by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

NOTE: (1) For those without the requisite Bachelors Degree*, a Masters Degree* in any of the above listed fields may be substituted; (2) Employees are required to maintain valid licensure/certification/registration as required by the minimum qualifications throughout employment in this title.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle in New York State and maintain same while in the title.