

MIGRANT HEALTH TECHNICIAN

This class identifies positions in the Division of Health Services involved with visiting migrant camps to survey the sanitary conditions and health care needs of migrant workers and their families. Work includes explaining available health services and other community resources to migrant laborers, families, and crew leaders. Considerable community contact is required in order to establish cooperative relationships with local groups and businesses. The seasonal nature of this program requires that incumbents possess appropriate public relations and survey skills to provide independent services without a prolonged training period. Work is performed independently with technical supervision from Migrant Health staff in the Division of Health Services and administrative guidance from local health staff.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity - Assignments are primarily visiting migrant camps to promote proper sanitary conditions and medical care. Major involvement in explaining health policies and laws, inspecting conditions, and liaison with local agencies.

Guidelines - Work requires application of established health and sanitation standards. Entry to camp, survey process, and follow-up requires skill and judgment due to lack of assistance on location.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Consequence of Action - Migrant workers and families are generally from lower socioeconomic background without motivation for proper health care and sanitary conditions. Crew leaders often resist intervention in camp routine. Services provided aid in improving camp conditions.

Accountability - Inspections and public relations reflect quality of local program. Effectiveness affects camp conditions and community health. Employees may commit resources in cooperation with local program or central office.

Review - Regular reports are completed for each inspection and submitted to local/state office for review. Employees must be able to use judgment in requesting guidance as necessary.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Subject Matter - Laborers are unmotivated or afraid of intervention in camp routine. Information exchanged with workers and crew leaders includes standard health and sanitation data and facts on available community resources. Community contacts are required to establish cooperative relationships with such groups as the Migrant - Seasonal Farmworkers Association, Employment Security Commission, local physicians, dentists, and pharmacists.

Purpose - Varies from gathering data on camp conditions to encouraging improved conditions, to motivating workers to seek medical care, to referrals.

IV. WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Nature of Working Conditions - Migrant camps are normally isolated, unsanitary, and lack of modern conveniences. Crew leaders often resist intervention in camp routine.

Personal Hazards - Crew leaders may be resistant to the point of verbal abuse or worse. Effective public relations is required to minimize threat of personal hazard.

V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of and ability to enlist available community resources and medical services; general knowledge of health policies, procedures, and statutes; skill in communicating with various types of laborers, a variety of service delivery disciplines, and the general public; skill in reading, writing, and arithmetical computations; skill in analyzing data and ability to apply independently to sanitary and health conditions in migrant camps; ability to complete required records and reports; ability to establish effective working relationships with crew leaders, laborers, community agencies, and groups.

Minimum Education and Experience - Degree from a two-year technical school or community college associate program designed to prepare support personnel for human services agencies and one year of experience in providing direct services to similar populations where extensive coordination and liaison with community resources are required; or graduation from high school or equivalent and three years of the above experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Administering the Class - Graduates from college with at least a year of experience in a professional job providing exposure to consulting and coordinating services with other program components (such as teachers, nurses, social workers) may start at the first step of the range.