

HOME ECONOMIST

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

An employee in this class works in a local health department as a member of a team providing comprehensive maternal and infant care. Specific duties include professional guidance in the promotion of good nutrition habits and homemaking skills. The employee is responsible for providing technical training to the homemaker and for supervising her work. Administrative supervision is received from the Health Director and technical supervision from the nutritionist.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Provides normal diet instruction to maternal patients both in the clinics and in their homes in an effort to eliminate dietary deficiencies and to establish habits of good nutrition.

Visits homes of patients to assist them with family food buying, preparation and storage practices.

Serves as team member in assessing individual nutritional and home needs of the patient and assumes initial responsibility for training the homemaker and guiding her to provide optimum service to the patient and her family.

Based on individual family needs, works with patients in all aspects of home economics such as clothing, home furnishings, household management, and child care in a continuing effort to raise the level of personal and family living.

Selects and develops educational materials for talks, bulletin boards, and public information media, and cooperates with the health educator and other project members in informing others about the projects.

Serves as consultant to other members of the staff in areas of consumer information, housing and equipment, clothing, care of the home, etc.

Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities

Extensive knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of home management and family living and ability to apply to the field of public health.

Considerable knowledge of social and economic problems related to family life and ability to work with people with low economic and educational standards.

Knowledge of and ability to apply educational techniques in training staff members and patients in home management.

Ability to secure the cooperation of patients and to elicit needed information.

Ability to deal tactfully with the public and to exercise good judgment in appraising situations and making decisions.

Minimum Education and Experience

Graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in Home Economics and one-year of experience in the field of home economics education, nutrition education, or dietetics; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Minimum Education and Experience for a Trainee Appointment

Graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in Home Economics; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.