

LACTATION SPECIALIST

GRADE: 08

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Performs moderately complex (journey-level) breastfeeding education. Provides education, assistance and support to breastfeeding mothers and their infants to attain a successful breastfeeding relationship; Assists in training, coordinating, and helping peer counselors. Works under general supervision with moderate latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Evaluates breastfeeding process between mothers and their infant, develops and implements a feeding plan based on the individual needs and goals of the breastfeeding mother/infant including evaluation of outcomes and appropriate follow-up

Provides consultation, support, counseling and educational classes for families experiencing routine and/or complex issues associated with lactation and breastfeeding

Counsels participants with BF situations requiring special assistance

Conducts home visits as needed.

Acts as liaison for the department with other medical and community agencies

Assists in developing and approving schedules, priorities, and standards for achieving goals; and directs evaluation activities.

Identifies areas of needed change, and makes recommendations to improve operations.

Provides technical guidance in the program area

Responds to clients with high risk breastfeeding questions

Assists with the planning and preparing of breastfeeding awareness activities and other special projects

Actively participates in activities that promote and support exclusive breastfeeding

Plans, assigns, and supervises the work of others.

Performs other duties as assigned

GENERAL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

Experience and Education

Graduation from an accredited college or university with an Associate's degree in nutrition, public health, or related field and two to three (2-3) years of experience providing lactation support and/or instruction. Two (2) years of experience may substitute one (1) year of education.

Bilingual preferred (English/Spanish)

Certificates, Licenses, Registrations

International Board of Lactation Consultants Certification

Current Immunization Record and an annual Tuberculin test

Must possess a valid Texas Motor Vehicle Operator's License

Must be able to be insured by the County's insurance carrier

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of breastfeeding physiology, anatomy, counseling and training techniques

Knowledge of federal, state, and local policies and regulations that pertain to WIC services

Knowledge of lactation management problems/situations and proper solutions to lactation issues

Knowledge of principles and evidence-based practices of breastfeeding counseling and lactation management

Skill in identifying, resolving, and providing counseling on common to high risk breastfeeding issues

Ability to assist in the management of program activities; to prepare reports; to communicate effectively; and to plan, assign, and supervise the work of others.

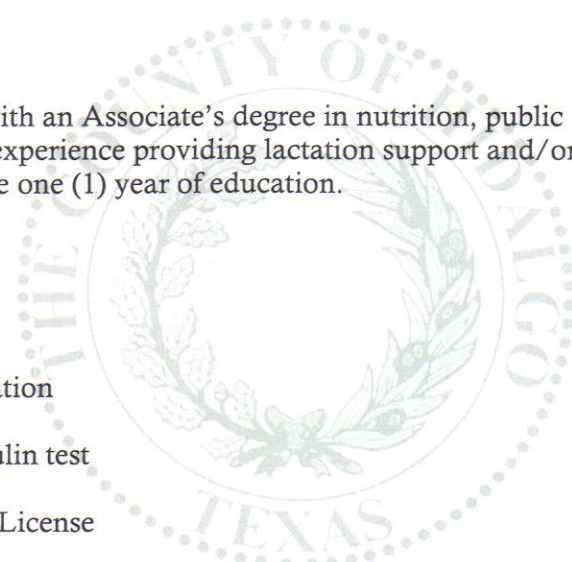
Ability to be organized, efficient and confidentiality

Knowledge of typical problems and constraints that the participants face when promoting breastfeeding

Organizational and interpersonal skills, written and oral communication skills

Ability to assess current operations on an ongoing basis and assist in implementing required changes

Employee may be assigned to other duties in addition to those listed; duties may change according to the changing need of the County.



PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee frequently is required to stand. The employee is occasionally required to walk; sit; use hands to find, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; stoop and kneel.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move over 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounter while performing the essential functions of this job.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

Maintain physical conditions appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities which may include the following:

- sitting for extended periods of time
- standing for extended periods of time
- operating assigned equipment

Maintain mental capacity which permits:

- making sound decisions and using good judgment
- demonstrating intellectual capabilities

Effectively handle a work environment and conditions which involve:

- working closely with others
- working in a multi-task environment

Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for:

- making observations
- reading and writing
- operating assigned equipment
- communication with others
- required to follow the Hidalgo County Accident Prevention Plan and department's safety regulations