

Careers In



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Director, WIC Program

Northeast Valley Health Corporation

The WIC Program

- ♦ **WIC is the federally funded food and nutrition education program for low-income nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under age five.**





The WIC Program

- ◆ The WIC Program is not an entitlement program. Congress reauthorizes funding for WIC every three years.
- ◆ The United States Department of Agriculture provides administration and oversight for the WIC program under the Food and Nutrition Section of the USDA.



The WIC Program

- ◆ **The USDA in turn allocates funding to all States and Indian Nations under affirmative action and a funding formula which accounts for potential eligible in each State.**



CALIFORNIA WIC

- ◆ **California has the largest number of WIC Participants in the nation and is dedicated to improving the nutrition and health of over 1.3 million women, infants and children.**



The WIC Program

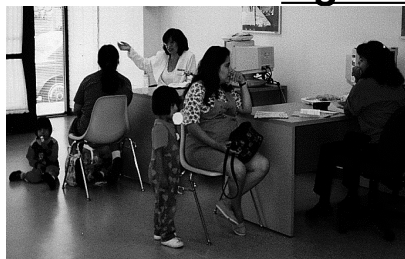
- ◆ **The WIC Program provides opportunities to work at the Federal, State, and Local Levels.**
 - *USDA – Food and Nutrition Services - Federal Level*
 - *WIC Branch of the Department of Health Services – Each State Level*
 - *County and Private Non-Profit Agencies – the local level*

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WIC PROGRAM

- ◆ **WIC provides a variety of career opportunities not just for Dietitians but for Health Educators, Finance Majors, Health Administration, and other related fields, such as Management of Information Systems.**

Opportunities for Dietitians

- ◆ **Nutrition assessment and education**
 - **Key to WIC is the need for Dietitians to do nutrition assessment and counseling for clients assessed as high risk.**





Opportunities for Dietitians (cont'd)

- ◆ **Nutrition Education curriculum development.**
 - **Designing nutrition classes for group education.**

- ◆ **Administration/Management**
 - **Managing Staff and a facility for WIC**



Northeast Valley Health Corporation

- ◆ **Career path in a healthcare agency**
 - **WIC – Dietitians are hired as Clinic Supervisors**
 - Manage a staff
 - Manage a WIC site
 - Manage Participant education and counseling -
Act as the principal clinician for participants assessed
as high risk according to WIC Procedures.



Northeast Valley Health Corporation (cont'd)

- ◆ WIC Department
 - Nutrition Education Materials development
 - Breastfeeding Information and Referral materials development
 - Special Projects
 - Coordinate a project
 - Work on a State Committee
 - Assist with Training paraprofessional staff
 - Act as Preceptors to Dietetic Interns



Northeast Valley Health Corporation WIC Employee (cont'd)

- ◆ 30 Registered Dietitians and Degreed Nutritionists
- ◆ 97 Paraprofessionals
- ◆ 3 Breastfeeding Promotion & Support Professional Staff
- ◆ 6 Information & Referral Representatives
- ◆ Ancillary Support, administrative assistants, warehouse, mailroom and courier clerks, MIS support

WIC Participants



- ◆ Total Enrolled
 - 73,000
- ◆ Total Participation
 - Monthly Average
 - March, 2005 - 66, 330 participating

Requirements for WIC Employment

Dietitians preferred – Completed an internship

Degreed Nutritionists – B.S. - Dietetics

Paraprofessionals with some college preferred,
however, high school diploma required

Support services must have some experience in the
posted job specification



Desired Requirements

Languages – Bilingual – desired but not essential to being hired

Spanish/English

Armenian/English

Korean/Chinese/English

Mid-Eastern Languages/English



Languages (cont'd)

WIC is a multicultural nutrition program

Knowledge of cultures and the language of a culture is highly desirable, however, as a WIC employee, training is provided in areas of cultural competency and Spanish language to enable the professional to do Dietary Assessment.

SPECIFIC TRAINING

Knowledge of Human Lactation is highly desirable, however, as a WIC employee, the professional will receive education in human lactation, and if funding is available, will be sent to a certificated program in Lactation Education



SPECIFIC TRAINING

- ◆ **Maternal and Child Health**
 - All staff receive various levels of training in Maternal and Child Health Nutrition as well as Infant and Child Development.



**NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION
WIC PROGRAM INTERNSHIP**

NEVHC WIC Program provides a Dietetic Internship which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE)

The purpose of the WIC sponsored internships is to prepare Dietitians to work in community nutrition and more specifically to work in the WIC Program.

WIC INTERNSHIPS

WIC Internships are available throughout the California WIC Programs

Clinica Sierra Vista WIC – Bakersfield, Kern County

Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC – Irwindale, Los Angeles county

San Diego WIC – San Diego, San Diego County

Central Valley WIC – Reedley, Merced, and Madera Fresno and Madera Counties



VISIT A WIC PROGRAM

- ◆ **The WIC Programs, wherever, you decide to go, extends an invitation to the Dietetic Intern or Student to visit and observe a WIC clinic in action.**
- ◆ **There are opportunities to work at WIC as volunteers as well as summer employment in some agencies.**
- ◆ **WIC information can be found in the brochure “California WIC – Career Opportunities and Dietetic Internships**



HAS A CAREER FOR YOU



WHAT ARE YOUR QUESTIONS

