

HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Under direction, to assist with planning and organizing public health education programs; to conduct public health education activities and related public information programs; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This class is responsible for conducting public health education for health professionals, community groups, and individuals as provided by the County Health Department. The current health education programs include tobacco, AIDS, and promotion of wellness. The level and scope of problems is less than that of a Health Education Coordinator.

REPORTS TO

Health Education Coordinator or Public Health Director.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Provides assistance with public health issues for the Health Department, other County departments, and community groups.
- Plans and conducts in-service education programs in health education, assessing the success of each training session.
- Establishes and maintains liaisons between the Health Department and other public and private agencies, community organizations, and professional groups.
- May help to locate staff for the provision of training services.
- Prepares and distributes health education materials, including reports, pamphlets, posters, exhibits, news releases, and radio scripts.
- Participates in health education programs, conferences and community programs; provides consultation and guidance to individuals and community groups.
- Attends training conferences relevant to current public health problems.
- Provides technical assistance in development of health education assessments, interventions, and protocols.
- Implements strategies to raise awareness of health issues.
- Conducts surveys of public health issues to develop new education programs.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in both office and rural community environments; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, methods, techniques, and materials of public health education.
- Functions, programs and services of both public and private agencies involved in health education activities.
- Public health statistical and survey methods.
- Community resources and demography.

Ability to:

- Communicate effectively orally in order to give presentations to local community groups.
- Communicate effectively in writing.
- Develop and implement health education activities for staff and community groups.
- Effectively represent the Health Department in contacts with the public, community organizations, and other government agencies.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and others.

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in public or community health education or other relevant degree such as psychology, education, or sociology.

Some previous experience in working in the public health field is highly desirable.

Special Requirements: Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.