

SENIOR NUTRITION OUTREACH WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the County Office for the Aging and involves responsibility to locate frail, at-risk, isolated, rural senior citizens and provide accurate information on the nutrition program, make referrals to professional staff in the Office for the Aging who provide counseling services, and coordinate with designated nutrition sites to develop senior citizen focal points and gain additional community support for nutrition programs. This position involves considerable travel to rural areas of the County to locate frail, at-risk senior citizens in need of nutritional services. The work is performed under supervision of the Nutrition Outreach Coordinator with limited leeway allowed for exercise of independent judgement in carrying out details of the work., Supervision over the work of others is not a responsibility of employees in this class. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Locates frail, at-risk, isolated senior citizens, assesses their needs, and provides information on available nutritional, social, health and financial assistance;
Refers senior citizens to appropriate informal and formal support system components such as social services agencies, churches, family counseling groups, etc.;
Schedules senior citizen information programs at nutrition sites and other focal points in Oneida County about social, health, financial and caregiver services.
Acts as advocate in behalf of frail, at-risk senior citizens who may be in need of nutrition services;
Completes clients' needs assessments, prepares service plan follow-up forms and required reports;
Serves as liaison for senior citizen clients between office for the Aging, nutritional and other services, contractors and the rural community;
Contacts the Nutrition Outreach Coordinator for consultation, supervision and back-up as needed;
Coordinates with local provider groups in identifying frail, at risk, low income isolated senior citizens;
Refers appropriate senior citizens to the Home Delivered Meals Program;
Attends Office for the Aging planning meetings to provide data on the needs of senior citizens in specific areas of the County;
Aids in evaluating the effectiveness of various services in specific areas of the County;
Aids in documenting gaps in provider services and makes recommendations for additional services.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Working knowledge of the characteristics, needs and interests of senior citizens; working knowledge of community resource facilities and services which can be utilized to assist the elderly with nutrition needs; working knowledge of the geographic area served by the Office for the Aging; ability to read, understand and interpret Federal and State regulations affecting nutrition needs of senior citizens; ability to communicate with elderly persons who may have physical or language difficulties; ability to relate to and motivate senior citizens; ability to speak and write affectively; empathy with the problems and feelings of the aged.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four (4) year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in sociology, psychology, social work, social services, human services, human resources or related field **AND** one (1) year of full-time paid experience or its part-time volunteer equivalent involving provision of social services to the elderly; **OR**
- (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two (2) year college with an Associate Degree in human services, human resources, social science or related field, **AND** three (3) years of experience as indicated in (A) above; **OR**
- (C) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma **AND** five (5) years of experience as indicated in (A) above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Certain assignments made to employees in this class will require access to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.