**Position Title:**  **Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences (NFCS) Advisor Serving Riverside County**

**Position Overview:** The NFCS Advisor will work in the general disciplinary area of nutrition education and consumer science with emphasis on obesity prevention, food safety and food security The advisor will conduct a highly visible and effective nutrition and healthy lifestyles education program with a significant focus on multifaceted approach addressing individual and family education, healthy food access, partnership development and community engagement. The advisor will conduct, administer and provide academic oversight for the existing two federally funded nutrition education programs (EFNEP and UC CalFresh) in Riverside County. Collaborating with ANR and campus-based colleagues, and community partners, the advisor will design, develop and implement research-based strategies in two areas: combating childhood and adult obesity and food insecurity, and extend research results to clientele through popular and professional media. Minimum educational requirements include a master’s degree in nutrition, health education, public health, food policy or related field. Experience in conducting applied research, program evaluation and education programs is required. Experience working with underserved and diverse populations is required. Strong leadership skills and experience in program and personnel management are required.

**Justification:** Obesity is associated with serious chronic illnesses, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol and as a result significantly impacts medical costs for not only adults but children. Overweight/obese children are more frequently diagnosed with diabetes and other chronic diseases, and are more likely to become overweight adults with an array of serious health issues. In Riverside County (2016), the prevalence of overweight/obesity among adults (66.9%) is greater than California average (62.7%). Almost 40% of 5th, 7th and 9th graders in Riverside County were overweight or obese in 2015 as defined by not being in the Healthy Fitness Zone for body composition. A comparison of cities in Riverside County with lowest and highest childhood obesity prevalence among 5th, 7th and 9th graders reveals higher obesity for cities ranked high on economic hardship scale, with fewer large chain grocery stores and limited access to healthy food, and poor park accessibility and higher crime rate. Riverside County has a population of 2,189,641 and ranks 4th as the most populous county in California. The County is also home of the impoverished rural Eastern Coachella Valley. Thus, there is a great need and a great opportunity for this Advisor to address obesity prevention, food security and food access, not only by direct education but also through policy, systems and environmental change. There are many strong community connections that exist from the NFCS academic leadership that are essential to UCCE’s stability with partners and continued efforts to advance community health and wellness such as with school districts and DPSS where we have successfully delivered programs and helped write proposals such as for the SNAP-Ed Innovative Project Grant and the SNAP-Ed Get Fresh Grant. Both projects brought in a combined $1.1 million dollars to Riverside County. This position will serve as a critical liaison between the UC and the county to extend the research continuum to the local level. This position provides academic leadership to continue the community collaborative momentum and provide administrative and program oversight for EFNEP and UC CalFresh in Riverside County. The Advisor will also spend up to 10% time for oversight of EFNEP program in San Bernardino County. This position is proposed to fill a vacancy projected for 2019 due to retirement.

**Extension:** Research-based information and best practices on obesity prevention and food resource management will be extended to a primary clientele audience of education and health professionals, with parents and the general public as a secondary audience. Partnerships with local health care agencies, school districts, afterschool programs, collaborative and non-profits working in the arena of nutrition and food access will also serve as critical extension avenues. The advisor will also disseminate nutrition education information via academic oversight of the Riverside County EFNEP and UC CalFresh Programs as well as via oversight of the San Bernardino County EFNEP.

**Research**: The Advisor will collaborate with a wide array of community partners including school district officials and public health professionals, as well as UC academic colleagues, to develop and test research-based community interventions to address childhood and adult obesity. As appropriate, the Advisor may also conduct research programs in the areas of chronic disease prevention through improved nutrition, food safety, food accessibility/security, obesity, parenting education, family resource management, and nutrition issues.

**ANR Network:** As detailed in the Strategic Plan for the ANR Healthy Families and Communities Initiative, advisor work on the issue of childhood obesity will strengthen the ANR continuum, tying ANR county-based academics to strong expertise on campus, including faculty and researchers associated with the UC ANR Nutrition Policy Institute, the UC Davis Department of Nutrition Center for Nutrition in Schools, and the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Additionally, there will be opportunities to tie work on childhood obesity into ANR efforts in food production and youth development, through collaborations with the 4-H Youth Development Program, UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) and the UC Master Gardener Program. The Advisor will also work closely with UC ANR’s Nutrition Policy Institute to improve nutrition, reduce childhood obesity, and address chronic diseases resulting from poor nutrition in some of the most underserved communities in Riverside County.

**Network External to ANR:** The NFCS Advisor will have the opportunities to collaborate and coordinate with the local government, non-profit organizations and community groups in Riverside County such as Riverside County Health Collaborative, Riverside Food System Alliance, Riverside Community Health Foundation, Riverside County Diabetes Collaborative, Feeding America and FIND Food Banks, to achieve the common goals of preventing hunger and promoting healthy Riverside County. The Department of Health and Social Services of the Riverside County revealed the strong collaboration they perceive with this position in conducting programs and attaining extramural fund as partners.

**Support:** Riverside will provide full financial support (office spaces, communication, clerical support and office assistance) travel mileage, supplies and office equipment.

**Other support:** The EFNEP and UC CalFresh programs in Riverside County are active and well-funded by federal funds. To meet EFNEP and UC CalFresh guidelines and serve the mission of CE, a NFCS Advisor is necessary to continue program operations. This advisor will be expected to obtain extramural grants and funding in order to extend the NFCS academic program, resources and facilitate research. The opportunities for obtaining grants in this area are plentiful as evidenced by past successes. EFNEP state office provides for travel related expenses for supervision of the EFNEP program in San Bernardino County.

**Location:** Riverside will serve as the home-base location for this advisor.

**Developed and proposed by:** Riverside County UCCE Director Eta Takele, Katie Panarella, EFNEP Director, David Ginsburg, UC Cal Fresh Director.

**Additional Information:**

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**SI Position Would be affiliated with**: ANR Healthy Families and Communities Initiative

**Special Considerations**: Proposal is to fill a projected 2019 retirement notification by the current advisor