

2021 UC ANR CE Position Template (Advisor/Specialist)

Position Title:

Community Nutrition and Health (CNH) Area Advisor

Position (briefly describe):

The CNH Advisor will implement an innovative extension education and applied problem-solving research program for designated clientele in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties based on priority community needs within the broad areas of healthy lifestyles; health equity; food and nutrition; water security and safety; and, climate change resilience and health.

Education and Professional Background:

A Master's degree in community health and/or nutrition or other closely related field is required at the time of appointment. An understanding of key concepts related to community health and nutrition; the ability to design and implement a research and extension program leading to positive and measurable change; excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills; and proven skills in collaboration and teamwork in allied areas are required.

Justification:

This position is a high priority based on the combined 4.6 million population of the two counties and poverty rates of over 25% for several cities (San Bernardino, Barstow, Cabazon, Blythe, Coachella, Mecca, and others). Rates of obesity, cardiovascular, and respiratory diseases are higher in both counties than the statewide average; as well. Developing and extending research-based information focusing on reducing these risks and enhancing food security for low-resource impoverished youth and adults residing in the two counties is critical. Strong EFNEP and CalFresh programs are already in place in support of the position as well as an extensive network of ANR and external partners and agencies.

Extension:

The Advisor will develop, implement, and evaluate culturally relevant programming independently and in collaboration with partnerships with community-based organizations serving the targeted clientele such as school districts, food system networks and distribution centers, food councils, non-profit community-based organizations, community garden coordinators, and UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers. The Advisor will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in the two counties that will focus on childhood obesity and health, food access and food security, food management, health literacy, and other identified priorities. Opportunities exist for revising and updating the pictorial EFNEP evaluation tools and other resources; as well.

Research:

The Advisor will develop an applied research program that focuses on culturally-relevant nutrition and health needs of low-income youth, families, and communities. Research regarding policies and best practices that enhance community and school level health and well-being will be prioritized. Areas of research will include childhood obesity prevention approaches and strategies including nutrition, physical activity, and food resource management. A focus will be on designing, implementing, and evaluating the efficacy of a wide variety of methods and strategies that improve nutrition and health outcomes at the individual, family, school, and/or community levels across life spans. Relevant publications to report findings include: ANR 8000 series online publications, California Agriculture, Journal of the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Journal of Extension, and others.

ANR Network:

The position is aligned with UCANR's Strategic Initiative "Healthy Families and Communities" and supports the federal low-income nutrition education programs extended through UCCE including EFNEP and Cal Fresh. The Advisor will be part of the network of UC ANR Nutrition and Health Advisors that provide critical capacity,

coordination, and science-based momentum for an accelerated approach to California's health problems. Collaborations will occur between other ANR advisors and Specialists and Faculty, the UC ANR Nutrition Policy Institute, and with the UC Master Gardener and UC Master Food Preserver programs and affiliate with Program Teams including California Communities, Youth Science Literacy, and Climate Change. The position is also part of the UC and community cohort approach, addressing multiple aspects of health, prioritizing the greatest local needs and impacts paired with the resources and shared expertise of UC and local communities. Associated long-term condition changes will focus on improved community health and wellness, improved access to positive built and natural environments, improved workforce retention and competency, increased preparedness and resilience to extreme weather and climate change, improved individual and household financial sustainability, improved food security and food safety, and overall improved well-being for all throughout California. A cohort of experts bringing unique skills and community assets to collaborate statewide is the innovative and concerted approach needed to achieve and sustain community health.

Network External to ANR:

The Advisor will collaborate and provide a point of connection for city and county school districts, County Departments of Public Health, Head Start (Healthy Advisory Committee), Community Nutrition Action Partnership (CNAP), County of San Bernardino Healthy Communities committee, Boys and Girls Clubs, local food banks and distribution centers, Inland Empire youth organizations and after school programs conducted by a wide range of non-profits to enhance community health and resilience. The research and education extended by the Advisor will inform policy makers within and beyond Riverside and San Bernardino Counties with relevance and connection to programs throughout California.

Support:

The position has strong financial support for educators from the USDA through EFNEP and CalFresh and local support by both counties regarding office space and coverage of supplies, equipment, and travel reimbursement that, at times, is beyond that supplied by the USDA.

Headquarters and Coverage Area:

The position will be headquartered in the UCCE Riverside County office due to available space and its central proximity to many partnering organizations and agencies in both counties.

Developed and Proposed by:

UCCE County Directors in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (currently Rita Clemons, formerly Janet Hartin, Stephanie Barrett, and Chris McDonald) and Dorina Espinoza and is part of the Community Health Resilience & Nutrition Cohort developed by Katherine Soule, Shannon Klisch, Francene Steinberg, Lorrene Ritchie, Karina Diaz Rios, Sue Mosbacher, and Dorina Espinoza.