Mid-Valley Hospital

**Food Security & Nutrition Practicum**

Salary: $14.49 per hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks

Supervisor: Abby Pattison, Dietician

Period of Employment: June 21, 2022 – August 26, 2022

**Overview**

Mid-valley hospital is the Okanogan county hospital based in Omak. It’s mission is *Redefining exceptional service through compassionate care to our neighbors*. Mid-valley Hospital is an island of health care that services fairly remote populations and services one of the largest rural counties in Washington state.

This position will help create a safety net for the people in Okanogan county facing food security issues via the services provided at Mid-valley hospital. The population here is facing food security issues at a higher rate than in larger more populous counties with more established social safety nets. With 30% of the hospital population being identified as below the poverty line (and a county wide poverty rate of 27%) we want to identify and develop models for addressing food insecurity specifically tailored to this community.

**Responsibilities**

* Support program goals to help improve health outcomes for our patient population and lower readmission rates
* Research models for fresh food to-go boxes: staples, vegetables, and recipes for people with food security challenges; this includes “health care share” and “produce prescription” type programs that may utilize coupon cards for local business partners
* Research program and partnership models for growing produce via student and corps programs to support collaborative goals with the WWU Sustainability Pathways program
* Research funding and partnership models to support the program and provide produce
* Build relationships with organizations, agencies, and businesses to support the food security model
* Develop a patient survey to assess nutrition needs and access to food

**Qualifications and Experience**

* Passionate about public health
* Motivated and able to work independently
* Foundation of interpersonal and relationship building skills
* Proficient computer skills
* Well organized
* Must pass background check
* Vaccinations required (TDAP, MMR, COVID)
* Ability to work some nights and weekends
* Ability to attend week long on-board training
* Ability to work from Omak 2 days per week and remotely / attend classes in Twisp 3 days per week

**Educational/Professional Benefits**

* Hands-on work experience for students in public health, nutrition, and social services
* Experience working with many different health care systems
* Help develop a new public health program to increase food security and health outcomes in partnership between Mid-valley Hospital and WWU
* Applied cross-sector systems thinking in addressing health and equity issues while also supporting local food systems