

Mid-Valley Hospital
Food Security & Nutrition Practicum

Supervisor:	Abby Pattison, Dietician
Salary:	\$14.49/hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks
Period of Employment:	June 21, 2022 – August 26, 2022 3 days per week
Participation Requirements:	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer Enrollment in UEPP 471 Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course Meets 2 days per week (3 credits) Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits)

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

Find more information about Sustainability Pathways Fellowships at:

<https://sustain.wwu.edu/pathways>

Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at:

Joshua.Porter@wwu.edu