

2018 Summer Internship: USDA Summer Meals Program

Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

Internship Position

Maricopa County's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is looking for summer interns to help run their summer meals program! The Summer Meals Program provides nutritious meals free of charge to children under the age of 18 in low income areas. Many children receive free/reduced-cost breakfast and lunch during the school year. However, when the school year ends many children are left without access to healthy food options.

Fast Facts

- Created in 1968, Summer Meals is a federally- funded, state-administered program serving children 18 years and younger;
- USDA SFSP reimburses sponsors who provide healthy meals to children in low-income areas;
- Sponsoring organizations provide sites with nutritious meals that meet the Federal nutrition standard for school meals;
- Sites are located in areas where 50% of children are eligible for free/reduced-cost meals; and
- Sites are responsible for the distribution and counting of meals.

Opportunities

Interns in this program will gain exposure and experience with the following:

- Work directly with the community;
- Comfortability in a leadership position;
- Form relationships with community partners and stakeholders;
- Administer health education activities and lessons;
- Develop program management skills;
- Participate in data collection;
- Work with a local health department; and
- Define the Core Competencies of Public Health.

Intern responsibilities

As an intern for Summer Meals, you will have the opportunity to:

- Maintain a WIC site, including
 - Set-up and break-down/clean-up
 - Distribution of meals
 - Required paperwork (counting meals, submitting documentation, etc.)
- Develop marketing strategies and identify areas to recruit participants. For example: Fliers to local schools, community centers, parks, social media, etc.
- Implement activities at your site
- USDA encourages sites to provide activities for children during meal service. For example: Could implement coloring activities related to nutrition education and healthy eating!

- You will have the opportunity to develop learning materials and practice implementing them within the clinic.
- Site evaluation and future recommendations.

If you are interested in participating in this great opportunity, please contact Paige O'Connor at:

- (602)300-1888
- PaigeO'Connor@mail.maricopa.gov
- Please contact us with any questions!

Paige O'Connor

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