

**BERRIEN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

JOB POSTING

Annual Salary 16,229 – 18,256

Full Time; 22.5 Hours/Week

Grade 3

Job Title- Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

GENERAL SUMMARY

Under general supervision, this person is a mother with practical breastfeeding experience who serves as a support person for other mothers. She is familiar with the resources available to answer questions mothers ask, and she recognizes when to refer mothers to other providers. The overall goals of the peer counselor are to encourage women to breastfeed, empower mothers to solve breastfeeding problems, support and encourage breastfeeding women, and help women feel like great mothers to their babies.

TYPICAL DUTIES:

1. Builds and maintains a caseload of WIC women (pregnant and breastfeeding mothers). Minimum caseload requirements will be determined by the local WIC agency (with input from the state assigned lactation consultant).
2. Makes routine periodic contacts with all assigned mothers.
3. Gives basic breastfeeding information and support to new mothers, including overcoming common barriers, and getting a good start with breastfeeding. She also helps mothers prevent and handle common breastfeeding concerns.
4. Counsels WIC pregnant and breastfeeding mothers by telephone, home visits, clinic visits, and/or hospital visits at scheduled intervals determined by the local WIC program.
5. Establishes an effective working relationship with local hospitals and agencies as appropriate.
6. Teaches breastfeeding classes and/or recruits mothers at WIC clinics.
7. Follows up on all client referrals and keeps accurate records of services provided to WIC participants.
8. Follows hospital procedures when visiting mothers in the hospital.
9. Helps organize a local breastfeeding support group/mom's club.
10. Requests and receives technical assistance from a state assigned lactation consultant. Where feasible, identify local lactation consultants for on-going technical assistance.
11. Counsels and supports clients in their infant feeding plan by office appointment, home visit, breastfeeding clinic visit or telephone. Requests information from designated WIC staff or lactation consultant when unsure of what to do.
12. Communicates needs and problems relating to breastfeeding to the WIC supervisor and state WIC lactation consultant. Communicates needs and concerns relating to caseload management or referrals to supervisor.
13. Functions within a community team, members of the team might include, but are not limited to MSUE, Breastfeeding Initiative Peer Counselor, MIHP staff, hospital staff, lactation consultants, or LaLeche League leaders.
14. Refers clients to other breastfeeding resources and/or health professionals when needed.

15. Maintains strict client confidentiality.
16. Keeps accurate records of all contacts made with WIC mothers.
17. May assist WIC staff in promoting breastfeeding peer counseling through special projects and duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: High school graduation (or G.E.D.)

Experience: Has significant personal breastfeeding experience (does not have to be currently breastfeeding)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) /or Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC)
2. Possession of a valid vehicle operator's license and a vehicle is required.
3. In times of a public health emergency, may be required to report for specialized assigned duties inside or outside of Berrien County.

NOTE: the following need to be accomplished in the first year in this classification:

1. Completes Loving Support Peer Counseling training
2. Attends WIC Breastfeeding Basics 2-day training
3. Attends the MSUE Peer counselor update trainings
4. Attends the annual WIC Conference
5. On-site visits by State WIC Lactation Consultants
6. Reads assigned books and materials about breastfeeding
7. Attends other breastfeeding related conferences/training as appropriate.
8. Is a paid member of the local chapter of the La Leche League.

NOTE: If not yet certified as an IBCLC or CLC, the employee will be titled Breast Feeding Peer counselor and paid at one grade less on the salary schedule.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Is committed and enthusiastic about promoting and supporting breastfeeding
2. Demonstrates the ability to communicate with diverse populations
3. If possible, has been/is a WIC participant.

This description is intended to describe the type and level of work being performed by a person assigned to this job. It is not an exhaustive list of all duties and responsibilities required by a person so classified.

For application, contact:

Berrien County Personnel
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
(269) 982-8616

<http://www.berriencounty.org/581/Employment>

Berrien County is an Equal Opportunity Employer