

Level-up your counseling with Level 3 Certifier Academy!



6/5/2020

Apply now!

We are now accepting applications for certifiers to participate in the second cohort of the Level 3 Certifier Academy. It is time for less experienced certifiers to have a chance to take their skills to the next level – Level 3!

Praise from members of the first Academy

Members of the first cohort and their coordinators have been enthusiastic about their academy experience. We hear they have loved talking with certifiers from other agencies; they value the input from their mentor; and, they have learned a lot from the presentations and discussions.

Why participate in the 2020 Academy?

The Academy is a chance for up to 20 Oregon WIC certifiers to build more advanced nutrition-focused counseling skills, such as critical thinking, application of nutrition information to specific counseling situations, and reflective practice. This training was originally provided to all certifiers as part of RENEW in 2018 and covers content not available in required Level 1 or 2 training.

The Level 3 Certifier Academy consists of 3 parts:

1. A 7-month learning cohort where staff learn from state experts and each other. Sessions are conducted via Skype or Zoom (September 2020 thru March 2021).
2. Every cohort member has the opportunity to be paired up with an experienced certifier mentor who can provide one-on-one coaching.
3. A one-day training in April 2021 – to be held face-to-face held at the State WIC Office in Portland if conditions allow, otherwise provided remotely.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the Certifier Academy, you must:

- Be working as a WIC certifier (CPA);

- Have completed all the required Level 1 and 2 training modules, online courses, and the Certifier’s Guide;
- Have been working as a certifier for 6 months or more;
 - Priority will be given to certifiers with less than 2 years of WIC counseling experience.
- Have permission from their WIC coordinator and training supervisor to participate;
- Be able to commit to participating in the conference calls via Skype or Zoom (for the learning cohort);
- Be able to complete the reflective practice activities that are part of the cohort;
- Be able to attend a 1-day training;
- Applicants will not need to participate in the learning cohort in order to attend the face-to-face training, but it is highly recommended. Priority to attend the April 2021 face-to-face training will be given to members of the Learning Cohort.

All less experienced certifiers are encouraged to participate in the academy for Level 3 training.

What is the time commitment to participate in the Certifier Academy Learning Cohort

- Skype kick-off meeting on 9/8/2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - At this meeting, you will:
 - Meet your fellow cohort members and develop group agreements;
 - Discuss using critical thinking as a WIC certifier;
 - Review elements of advanced nutrition-focused counseling;
 - Learn how to incorporate reflective practice and observations into your continuous learning plan;
 - Select conference call topics and case study ideas.
- 6 one-hour monthly conference calls from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month
 - October 13, 2020
 - November 10, 2020
 - December 8, 2020
 - January 12, 2021
 - February 9, 2021



- March 9, 2021
- Each conference call will have a facilitated discussion topic with a subject matter expert, a case study review, and possible short follow-up activities or practice to do in the clinic.

Working with a mentor

- Each cohort member has the option to work with their mentor to agree on frequency and scheduling times to talk by phone.
- Conversations with mentors are confidential and will not be reported to supervisors or state staff.



Face-to-face Level 3 counseling training.

- The 1-day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) face-to-face training will be on April 13, 2021 at the State WIC Office in Portland if travel and face-to-face training is allowed at that time, otherwise it will be held remotely. If training is in Portland additional travel time may be needed to attend.
- Priority for attendance will be given to staff who participate in the Learning Cohort.



After attending this training, staff will:

- Recognize change talk, ambivalence, resistance and use motivational interviewing techniques to address them during counseling;
- Use brain science concepts to recognize signs of activation and resistance in themselves and others;
- Analyze trauma and resilience informed strategies that can be used to navigate difficult counseling situations.

What financial support will there be for participation?

- The State WIC office will provide a computer headset that can be used to participate in the Skype calls.
- Standard state travel reimbursement will be provided to attend the face-to-face training (mileage, per diem, lodging depending on distance traveled.)
- After staff participate in the 4-hour kick-off Skype call, your agency will receive a grant adjustment of \$140.00 to help offset the cost of staff time.



To apply:

Follow the SurveyMonkey Link to submit your application by 7/17/2020.

We will accept later applications if space is available.

Level 3 Certifier Academy Application

Follow the SurveyMonkey link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L3CA2020>



to complete this application by 7/17/2020. (We will accept later applications if space is available.)

Name:

Agency:

Email address:

Phone number:

Date you were hired as a certifier (must be prior to 3/1/2020):

Date you successfully completed all Level 1 and 2 required certifier training (must be prior to 8/31/2020):

Name of your supervisor:

Supervisor email address:

Indicate which parts of the academy you would like to attend:

- Both the Learning Cohort and the 1-day training
- The Learning Cohort only
- The 1-day training only

Answer the following questions. (Free form)

- What has been your biggest challenge as a WIC Certifier?
- How do you hope attending the Certifier Academy will help you meet that challenge?
- What would be one thing you would most like to talk with other certifiers about while attending the Certifier Academy?

You have the option of being paired with a mentor. Mentors are experienced WIC certifiers who will be able to discuss WIC related training topics. Are you interested in being paired with a mentor?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure