

**The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Biographical Sketch of Candidates for 2026 Election**

Candidate for the office of: Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Council
Chair-Elect

Name: Ivan Zacarias

Credentials: MS, RDN, IBCLC

Title: Senior Director of WIC and Nutrition Services

Agency: Valle del Sol, Inc.



ASPHN Activities:

- DEAI Coordinator
- Governance Board

Briefly describe why you are interested in filling this position:

- I am deeply committed to advancing equitable access to fruits and vegetables for low-income families and communities disproportionately affected by food insecurity and chronic disease. In my role directing WIC, SNAP Outreach, and outpatient nutrition services within a FQHC, I have led initiatives that connect families to nutrition benefits, culturally relevant produce options, and community food resources. Serving as Fruit and Vegetable Committee Chair would allow me to contribute frontline program insights, elevate best practices that improve redemption and consumption of fruits and vegetables, and support policies that strengthen nutrition security and chronic disease prevention nationwide.

Other Related Activities (professional and/or personal):

- Former President, Arizona Local Agency WIC Association, leading statewide initiatives to enhance nutrition services and participant food access.
- Direct oversight of integrated programs including WIC, SNAP Outreach, Community Resource Specialists, Outpatient Nutrition Services, and DSMES, all of which promote fruit and vegetable consumption through education, benefits enrollment, and community partnerships.