

PRESS RELEASE



**Yakima Valley
Farm Workers Clinic**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Wins WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic has been recognized with the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence. This award highlights WIC agencies that have provided exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support activities in their communities.

“Our peer counseling team is dedicated to our moms, and I’m so proud of what they’ve been able to achieve, especially in a pandemic year,” said Stacy Hackenmueller, Coordinator of Special Projects for Nutrition Services. The program reaches out to parents to help address breastfeeding issues in real time. The team also connects parents to useful resources, educates health care partners about the challenges parents can face. “We are thrilled to receive this special recognition,” Hackenmueller continues.

The WIC team achieved the Premiere tier of this award by helping at least 15% of their clients exclusively breastfeed their children and showing marked increased rates of breastfeeding across the community year over year. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic was one of 11 organizations to be recognized nationwide with the Premiere tier of this award.

The peer counselor program is continuing to push for creative solutions for their clients to overcome the limitations brought by COVID-19. “One of our next goals is to bring our community baby showers to a virtual setting. Those supportive events got put on hold with the pandemic and we’re excited to rebuild those community connections online,” Hackenmueller said.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest community health centers, providing medical, dental, behavioral health and social services to more than 171,000 people a year. With more than 60 unique service locations across Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) and Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, Whitman, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties), we deliver affordable, comprehensive primary care for underserved populations in our communities. We also extend our network of care through our mobile health units and virtual visit technology, bringing essential care to our more remote patients. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic employs over 1,600 staff in addition to our medical and dental residents, administrative fellows, students, and volunteers. All of whom are dedicated to bringing quality care to those in our communities who need it most. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by HRSA, The Joint Commission, and The National Committee for Quality Assurance for our accomplishments in community health care. For more information, please visit yfwc.com/press.