

PRESS RELEASE



**Yakima Valley
Farm Workers Clinic**

Date: September 30, 2024

For more information, please contact:

Michael Murdock, Media Liaison

Phone: (509) 314-1013

media@yvfwc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and MultiCare Celebrate Partnership to Preserve Maternal-Fetal Medicine Services in Central Washington

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON – A partnership between Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and MultiCare will maintain access to Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) services in Central Washington. This collaboration ensures the continued provision of specialized care for high-risk pregnancies, promoting the best outcomes for both mothers and their babies.

Memorial Hospital and the University of Washington discontinued MFM services in Yakima in 2022 which posed a significant challenge to Central Washington mothers because the closest alternatives were in the Tri-Cities and Seattle. Over 60% of MFM participants were Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic patients, so the Community Health Center stepped in to retain as much of the program as possible. With the support of MultiCare and other key partners, these MFM services are now fully restored in Central Washington.

Maternal-Fetal Medicine is a collaborative service involving perinatologists, genetic counselors, sonographers, nurses, and support staff. Partnership weaves a comprehensive network of services, including prenatal screening, genetic counseling, and high-risk pregnancy management.

“Our goal is to meet this significant community need. We are fortunate to have partners who share our commitment to these patients. Our skilled MFM team is ready to tackle the challenges ahead. I’ve seen many children thrive because of these services, and it’s heartening to witness the support these families receive,” said Karly Floyd, Clinic Director at Children’s Village.

MultiCare brings significant technical expertise, including expanded genetic consultation services, and strong partner relationships to the MFM program.

“MultiCare's collaboration with Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic highlights our shared commitment to nurturing a healthy and vibrant community. Together, we are ensuring the preservation of Maternal Fetal Medicine services in Yakima, allowing families to access essential care without the stress of long-distance travel,” said Kimberly Johnstone, Clinical Director for Women’s and Children’s Services at MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital. “This partnership not only strengthens our healthcare system but also reinforces our dedication to keeping families connected and supported in their own community.”

Construction of a new MFM home is nearly complete at Children’s Village, a specialized clinic Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic co-operates with MultiCare that supports children with special health and developmental needs and their families. This location can provide enhanced prenatal diagnosis opportunities that will allow for seamless care for mothers and babies. Relocation is slated to be completed by October 4th.

CAPTION

The entrance to Children’s Village in Yakima, WA.

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 195,000 people a year. With more than 50 unique service locations across Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) and Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, 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 1,800 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.