

NEWS RELEASE



Date: Friday, June 14, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Looking for Employer Nominations *Nominations sought for 2024 Employer Excellence in Breastfeeding Support Award*

YAKIMA COUNTY - Breastmilk and breastfeeding has many proven health benefits for both babies and mothers alike, and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is seeking nominations of employers who demonstrate excellence in providing support for breastfeeding mothers.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, in partnership with the Yakima Health Equity Forum, a student organization of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, is hosting the seventh annual, 2024 Employer Excellence in Breastfeeding Support Award. The winner will be announced during World Breastfeeding Week in August.

“We want to reward employers who are going beyond the basic requirements of providing their employees with breastfeeding support,” said Heather McCrory, Nutrition Services WA WIC Regional Manager.

“Highlighting employers who clearly value the health of their employees and their families is instrumental in expanding employee breastfeeding support in the workplace.”

According to McCrory, making accommodations for breastfeeding can actually improve a business’s bottom line.

“Employees who breastfeed are more easily retained, have less sick time and contribute to lower health care and insurance costs,” said McCrory. “Breastfeeding can be foundational in providing an infant with the best start possible and set them up for success as they grow older.”

Workplace breastfeeding support might look like:

- A private pumping or nursing area with
 - a comfortable chair
 - an electrical outlet
- A small table for pumping
- A sink with running water for clean up
- A flexible break schedule for pumping

Gold Star employers might also include:

- An in-room refrigerator for breast milk storage
- Affordable onsite childcare

Nominations will be accepted until July 31, 2024, at [YVFWC.com/BFaward](https://yvfwc.com/BFaward)

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. Newsletter sign up at yfwc.com/newsletter.