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Health Department Observes World Breastfeeding Week *Winners of Annual Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards Announced*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department's (ACHD) Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) and the Allegheny County Breastfeeding Coalition (ACBC) are commemorating World Breastfeeding Week, which runs through August 7. Today ACHD announced the winners of the 23rd Annual Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards.

These awards recognize workplaces, public places and other sites away from home that make an extra effort to accommodate breastfeeding mothers.

This year's workplace winners are Grow Pittsburgh, Adagio Health and UPMC Passavant – McCandless. UPMC Passavant – McCandless is also the recipient of the public place award to become first ever organization to receive a workplace and public place award in the same year.

Following is more information about this year's winners:

- **Grow Pittsburgh** is an urban agriculture non-profit whose mission is to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits that gardens bring to neighborhoods. This healthy philosophy carries into its approach for staff to be able to return to work in a breastfeeding friendly environment and does so by allowing nursing infants at work and providing a welcoming space for a mother to pump.
- **Adagio Health** provides health and wellness services and support throughout 23 counties in Western Pennsylvania. Most of the 100,000 patients and clients receiving services at Adagio Health are women who are uninsured and underinsured. As a women's healthcare provider, it recognizes the importance for working mothers to be able to return to work and yet still be able to provide breastmilk for their infants.
- **UPMC Passavant – McCandless** is a community hospital north of Pittsburgh that strives to provide a friendly patient and family atmosphere. The hospital provides two lactation rooms in separate ends of the hospital for staff convenience. The rooms offer pumps for employees, patients and visitors to use as needed.

Breastfeeding initiation rates have been slowly rising in the United States for several years; however, the duration of breastfeeding rates among older infants 6-12 months remains low. With support from employers and communities, the hope is that more infants will be exclusively breastfed for the first six months and continued breastfeeding with solid foods will occur for at least the first year of life. The longer a baby is breastfed, the greater the health benefits.

PA WIC is funded by the USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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