



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Nominations Being Accepted for Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), in cooperation with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Breastfeeding Program, is seeking nominations for its annual Breastfeeding Friendly Places Awards. The awards are presented to workplaces, public places, and other sites away from home that make an extra effort to help breastfeeding moms by offering a positive attitude and supportive environment.

Studies show health benefits increase when babies are breastfed for six months or longer. Recent surveys indicate that number to be 48% in Pennsylvania and 52% nationwide.

“It’s encouraging to see that the number of nursing mothers in our state that breastfeed for six months or longer is increasing. We know that the availability of breastfeeding-friendly locations can support breastfeeding, which has great benefits for moms and babies,” said Dr. Karen Hacker, ACHD Director. “We want to encourage organizations to take the initiative to develop breastfeeding friendly environments.”

Employers can help breastfeeding moms by offering flextime or extended paid maternity leave, a health plan with breast pump coverage, work site day care and provisions for breastfeeding at work, which include an appropriate place, accommodating time for pumping milk, and a refrigerator in which to store the milk.

Public places and other areas away from home, such as restaurants, malls, libraries, theaters, parks, places of worship as well as sports and entertainment facilities, can also be supportive. They can provide an attractive, clean, and private area with comfortable seating for mothers to use when nursing. In addition, facilities can have signage to welcome breastfeeding mothers and let them know special accommodations are available.

Breastfeeding friendly workplaces are also good for business, because breastfed babies are less likely to get sick throughout childhood, and as a result, their parents miss less work due to a child’s illness.

To nominate an employer, public place, or other site, please call the Allegheny County Health Department WIC Program at 412-350-4637, or visit the Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards page: <http://www.achd.net/bfa/>.

Nominations will be accepted until May 22, 2018. The winners will be announced during World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, 2018.

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