



Harbor Health Services, Inc.

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Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Dorchester South/South Boston Women Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program managed by Harbor Health Services, Inc. recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for providing Exemplary Support to Breastfeeding Mothers

Boston, MA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded 9 Northeast local agencies of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) with the Loving Support Awards of Excellence for exemplary efforts in supporting breastfeeding WIC mothers. These awards are part of USDA's National WIC Breastfeeding Week, celebrated August 1-7 as declared by an official proclamation by Secretary Vilsack.

The Dorchester South/South Boston Women Infants Children Nutrition Program received the highest recognition as in the Gold Premier award.

"WIC's successful breastfeeding promotion support campaign, Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work, is the foundation of our breastfeeding promotion and support activities," said USDA Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Administrator Kurt Messner. "The campaign emphasizes the support of family and friends, the health care system, and the community as essential for a breastfeeding mother."

The USDA Loving Support Model is a successful performance based peer counseling program. Harbor Health's WIC Nutrition Program is one out of 9 local WIC agencies located in the Northeast region of the United States.

National WIC Breastfeeding Week is held in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week, celebrated during the first week of August each year to promote breast milk as the best food for baby's first year of life. This year's theme was Breastfeeding: A Key to Sustainable

"Your Guiding Light to Health Care"



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Development, which, according to the initiative's website, is "about how breastfeeding is a key element in getting us to think about how to value our wellbeing from the start of life, how to respect each other and care for the world we share."

The WIC program provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support), and referrals to health and other social services to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five. Services are made available through approximately 1,900 local agencies and 10,000 clinic sites. More information about the WIC program can be found at www.fns.usda.gov/WIC.

In addition to WIC, USDA's Food and Nutrition Services administers several other programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program which together comprise America's nutrition safety net. For more information, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

About Harbor Health Services, Inc.

Harbor Health Service, Inc. (HHSI) is the parent organization for Harbor Community Health Center, Hyannis, and Ellen Jones Community Dental Center (EJCDC), Harwich. Its Boston programs include Neponset Health Center, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, the Elder Service Plan, and Dorchester South/South Boston-Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program. These clinics and centers provide high-quality medical, dental and social services to patients in Boston, the South Shore, Plymouth and Barnstable Counties.

For more information, visit www.hhsi.us

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