

# Morris Heights Health honored for supporting breastfeeding moms

Morris Heights Health Center's WIC program was among seven local WIC agencies and clinics in NYS to receive the Gold Breastfeeding Award of Excellence from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

MHHC's WIC program is a 2x recipient of this award, receiving their first recognition in 2016. The award is given at three levels of performance that build on one

another: Gold, Premier and Elite. This year's winners were announced, in support of National Breastfeeding Week, celebrated from August 1st - 7th.

Every year the USDA recognizes local WIC agencies that demonstrate best practices in support of breastfeeding mothers. The Special Supplemental Nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is one of the nation's largest federally funded programs serving more than 6 million families. The program supports the short and long-term health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, children up to five years of age and caretakers including fathers.

The WIC program at MHHC has played a pivotal role in Bronx communities, providing families access to healthy and affordable food choices for over 20 years.

The program has five locations throughout the borough: each site offering benefits for nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, access to breast pumps, peer counseling, farmers market health bucks, a culinary institute for children and referrals for medical and social services. To date, the WIC program supports 9,000 families in NYC.

"Our WIC team has done an exceptional job responding to the changing needs of families

throughout the Bronx during these unprecedented times," expressed Jaimini Raval, WIC Program Director. "Their passion and dedication are what makes receiving this recognition more rewarding.

Since the start of the pandemic local WIC agencies across the country have been forced to find innovative ways to deliver services to the communities they serve. Morris Heights Health Center is currently offering in-person and remote services for new enrollment, recertification, and WIC benefits.

To learn more about the WIC services and resources at MHHC, visit [www.mhhc.org](http://www.mhhc.org) or call 718-716-4400.



MHHC WIC staff celebrating National Breastfeeding Week 2021.

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