



Cochise County Health and Social Services

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

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*** MEDIA RELEASE ***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Cochise County Government Recognized as a Healthy Place to Work

Cochise County Government was recently acknowledged by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a *Healthy Arizona Worksite*. The Healthy Arizona Worksite Program (HAWP) recognizes businesses that make efforts to positively affect the health and wellbeing of their employees, their families, and their community through evidence-based worksite health initiatives and other promising programs.

Representatives of Cochise County received the award at the Healthy Arizona Worksite annual event on Thursday, June 23, 2016 in Phoenix.



The HAWP is a public health initiative developed through a partnership between the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. The purpose of the HAWP is to help Arizona employers successfully implement evidence-based worksite wellness initiatives to improve the health of their employees and businesses.

The county was granted a Gold Level award (the highest level) due to its successful efforts at tracking and documenting employee fitness outcomes and behavior change. Gold Level programs demonstrate institutional support by integrating worksite health programs with business policies and benefits. At Cochise County, employees are able to take advantage of various healthy activities that include an active-adult program, annual health screenings, on-site fitness facilities, and various educational resources from presentations to learning tools.

Cochise County joins over two dozen public and private Arizona organizations including Arizona State University, U-Haul International, Humana Arizona, and Phoenix Children’s Hospital who have received Gold Level awards.

From left: Suzanne Hagle, Cochise County Administrative Manager; Roza Vickers, Cochise County Health Policy Manager; and Wayne Tormala, Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau Chief for Tobacco and Chronic Disease Prevention.

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The HAWP process was an opportunity for Cochise County to identify and highlight its strengths in employee wellness and address areas where improvements could be realized. Possible improvements in the coming year include upgrading dedicated spaces for nursing mothers, piloting designated tobacco use areas, and educating employees on heart health with the CDC's *Million Hearts* tools.

Such wellness initiatives have been shown to reduce costs associated with healthcare and absenteeism. In addition, they have been linked to increased productivity as healthy employees have been shown to be more productive. The HAWP provides Arizona employers with training, technical assistance, tools, and resources to design, implement, and evaluate worksite wellness initiatives. The HAWP also works to create linkages between Arizona businesses engaging in healthy worksite efforts so they can learn from each other and share experiences.

For more information on helping your organization or business implement a worksite wellness program, please contact Roza Vickers, Health Policy Manager, at rvickers@cochise.az.gov or 520-249-2707. For additional information on the HAWP, please visit <http://healthyazworksites.org>.

About Cochise Health and Social Services

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Cochise Health and Social Services promotes health and quality of life for all Cochise County residents through community partnerships, education, service, and leadership. For more information, including recent media releases, please visit our website at <https://www.cochise.az.gov/health-and-social-services/home>.

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