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**Yakima County health partnership wins \$50,000 state grant
Partners' goals are to improve health, improve care and lower costs**

YAKIMA – A Yakima County partnership has been awarded a \$50,000 community health planning grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority to help alleviate the most pressing health challenges in the region.

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital and The Memorial Foundation are partnering with Heritage University and the Yakima Health District, among others, to initiate an Accountable Community of Health organization. The goal is for partnering entities to work together to improve access to health care and reduce health disparities in Yakima County, thereby improving overall population health.

Partners in this group, known as Yakima County Accountable Community of Health, have been meeting since February to assess community needs and resources.

Yakima County Accountable Community of Health was created under the State Health Care Innovation Plan, released in December 2013, which calls for regionally-based, voluntary, collaborative groups to work to improve population health, improve health care quality and lower health care costs.

The state Health Care Authority offered grant opportunities of up to \$50,000 each to government and tribal entities to aid planning for collaborative, multi-sector work around community health transformation priorities. The Health Care Authority awarded \$485,000 in total to 10 recipients, including the Yakima County group.

Other members of the Yakima County Accountable Community of Health include Community Health of Central Washington, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, Prosser Memorial Hospital, United Way of Central Washington, Yakama Reservation Wellness Coalition, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Yakima Valley Community Foundation, and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, among others.

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