



City of Yakima

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Subject: Employee Healthcare Clinic Ribbon Cutting**

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## **New City Employee Healthcare Clinic Now Open**

The City of Yakima entered a new era when it officially opened its new in-house employee healthcare clinic. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> outside the entrance to the new clinic located at 103 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

The clinic is being operated by miCare, a subsidiary company of Montana-based Employee Benefits Management Services, Inc., which runs in-house clinics for both private and public sector organizations.

City officials, miCare representatives, and others who had a hand in opening the clinic spoke during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Yakima is believed to be the first local government entity in Washington State to open its own in-house clinic. The idea had been discussed for several years, but in the face of continuing steep increases in healthcare costs, the City's Employee Welfare Benefit Board decided last fall that it was time to move more aggressively toward opening the clinic.

The City's miCare clinic is being staffed by two doctors, a mid-level practitioner, and a medical assistant and is initially operating 26 hours each week providing general medical services, lab work, and prescriptions for eligible City employees, their families, and retirees. The hours of operation of the clinic will likely be expanded as usage of the clinic increases.

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