



# Clinton County Health Department

133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901-2926

“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

health.clintoncountyny.gov



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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## News Release

Date: June 27, 2024  
For Immediate Release  
Contact: 518-565-4840

### Lactation Accommodations at State University of New York Plattsburgh

**Plattsburgh, NY, June 27, 2024.** In March 2024, State University of New York (SUNY) Plattsburgh became the first university to receive Clinton County Health Department’s (CCHD) *Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly Workplace* designation. SUNY Plattsburgh is one of the region’s largest employers and is home to over 4,400 students.

In June 2023, and again on June 19, 2024, New York State expanded the accommodations for those choosing to pump human milk in the workplace. NYS Department of Labor’s Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace now requires that all employers must:

1. Provide a safe and private pumping space that includes seating, access to running water, electricity, and in close proximity to the work space.
2. Provide 30 minutes of paid break time, separate from any existing meal or paid break time, as often as an employee reasonably needs to express breast milk.
3. Develop and implement a written lactation policy that ensures employee rights will not be infringed upon if they choose to pump and/or feed their child/ren in the workplace.
4. Distribute the written lactation policy to each employee upon hire, as well as to employees who are returning to work after the birth of a child.

CCHD’s *Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly New York* (BFF-NY) grant collaborated with SUNY Plattsburgh to ensure these accommodations were extended to their faculty, staff and student body. SUNY Plattsburgh worked with various groups throughout campus to establish and adopt an inclusive lactation accommodation policy in accordance with the labor law.

Through the collaborative effort, three private lactation rooms have been established across the SUNY Plattsburgh campus with more to launch in the coming months. Current lactation spaces are located within Redcay, Sibley Hall, and Angell College Center. With funding from BFF-NY, each space has been furnished with:

- Comfortable seating,
- A small table to place a pump on,
- A hospital-grade chest/breast pump,
- Mini-refrigerator for safe storage of expressed milk,
- Educational materials, and
- Calming elements such as sound machines, canvas art work and dim lighting.

According to Allison Heard, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, “The opportunity to collaborate with the Clinton County Health Department has allowed our campus to expand the resources that



“Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations”

are available to students, employees, and visitors to our campus. We realize that there is no one definition for what a student or an employee looks like. As such, we must be inclusive and willing to embrace our community and those who put their trust in SUNY Plattsburgh. We want students, employees, and visitors to campus to feel welcome on campus and to feel like they belong. When these things align, our campus community becomes a natural extension of other people’s happy spaces. The Clinton County Health Department has helped us create some of those spaces on campus through the collaboration with their Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly New York (BFF-NY) grant. We look forward to our continued partnership and future collaborations.”

If you would like to create a lactation room at your worksite please contact Health Planning and Promotion at 518-565-4993. For more information about your rights as an employee to express milk in the workplace, visit <https://dol.ny.gov/breast-milk-expression-workplace>

### **About the Clinton County Health Department:**

**The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department’s Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at [health.clintoncountyny.gov](http://health.clintoncountyny.gov) or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), X (Twitter [@ClintonCountyHD]), and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).**

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