Agricultural Workers Needs Assessment

Introduction

Community Health Centers are required to assess the need of its target population(s) including agricultural workers.   The requirements listed below can be found under Chapter 3 of the Health Center Compliance Manual

- The health center must define and annually review the boundaries of the catchment area to be served [service area], including the identification of the medically underserved population or populations within the catchment area in order to ensure that the:
  - o Size of this area is such that the services to be provided through the center (including any satellite service sites) are available and accessible to the residents of the area promptly and as appropriate;

  - o Boundaries of such area conform, to the extent practicable, to relevant boundaries of political subdivisions, school districts, and areas served by Federal and State health and social service programs; and

  - o Boundaries of such area eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers resulting from the area's physical characteristics, its residential patterns, its economic and social groupings, and available transportation.

- The health center must assess the unmet need for health services in the catchment or proposed catchment area of the center based on the population served, or proposed to be served, utilizing, but not limited to, the following factors:

  - o Available health resources in relation to the size of the area and its population, including appropriate ratios of primary care physicians in general or family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics and gynecology to its population;

  - o Health indices for the population of the area, such as infant mortality rate;

  - o Economic factors affecting the population's access to health services, such as percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level; and

  - o Demographic factors affecting the population's need and demand for health services, such as percentage of the population age 65 and over.