

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CENTER'S COLLABORATION WITH MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START

Virtual Migrant Stream Forum 2021

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Farmworker Justice



FARMWORKER JUSTICE
*Empowering farmworkers to improve their living and
working conditions since 1981*

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National Migrant & Seasonal Head
Start Collaboration Office



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Start Collaboration Office

Agenda

- Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Overview
- Assessing your organization's partnership
- What makes a strong MOU?
- Challenges and strategies to develop/strengthen partnership with Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
- Questions/Conclusion

Farmworker Justice

Farmworker Justice is a national nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that seeks to empower farmworkers and their families to improve their living and working conditions, occupational safety, and health.

Using a multi-faceted approach, Farmworker Justice engages in litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, training and technical assistance, coalition-building, and public education.

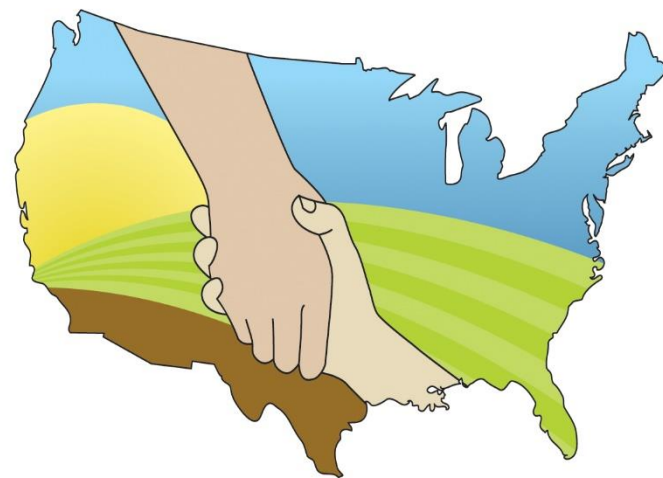
www.farmworkerjustice.org



National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office

The National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office (NMSHSCO) is a nationally based office designed to promote high quality direct service delivery through collaboration, coordination and alignment of high-quality services for all MSHS grantees and delegate agencies.

The NMSHSCO serves a vital role in facilitating collaborative opportunities and fostering new partnerships to build a sustainable, comprehensive early learning system for our Migrant and Seasonal Head Start children, families and the communities in which they live.



<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/article/migrant-seasonal-head-start-collaboration-office>

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start - Overview

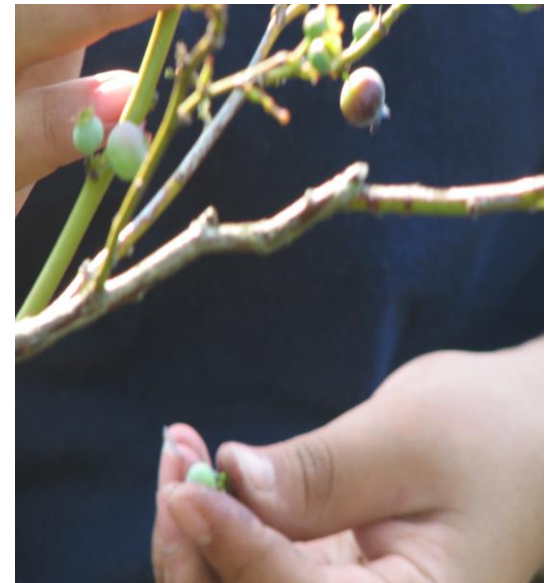
The Migrant Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program is one of the largest community-based service providers in the nation, providing a wide range of services to over 30,000 migrant and seasonal children, ages birth to compulsory school age, and their families each year.

The MSHS program provides education and support services to low-income children of migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families. Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.



MSHS Eligibility Criteria

- Income below federal poverty guidelines
- Birth to compulsory school Age
- The *entire* family must have moved within the last 24 months in search of agricultural work
- 51% of income from agriculture within the last 12 months-families must meet this requirement each year



Defining Migrant & Seasonal

- Migrant farm workers are families engaged in agricultural labor who have changed their residence from one geographic location to another in the preceding two year period.
- Seasonal farmworkers are families engaged primarily in seasonal agricultural labor who have not changed their residence in the preceding 2-years.



MSHS Children w/Health Insurance	% of children
Number of all children w/health insurance	93.5%
Number enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP, or state-only funded insurance	91.41%
Number with private health insurance	2.09%
Number of children w/no health insurance	6.5%



Auxiliary Services

- 50 Program provides transportation to approx. 16,808 children
- Parent leadership opportunities
- All programs must provide services from a professional/licensed
 - Nutritionist
 - Behavioral Health Provider

Assessing Your Organization's Partnership



Not all partnerships
are created equal

Collaboration Spectrum

COLLABORATION SPECTRUM

						Trust
Compete	Co-exist	Communicate	Cooperate	Coordinate	Collaborate	Integrate
Competition for clients, resources, partners, public attention	No systematic connection between agencies	Inter-agency information sharing (e.g., networking)	As needed, often informal interaction on discrete activities or projects	Groups and organizations systematically adjust and align work with each other for greater outcomes	Longer team interaction based on shared mission, goals; also shared decision-making and resources	Fully integrated programs, planning, and funding

Turf

Breakout Rooms

Thinking about your current relationship with Migrant and Seasonal Head Start:

- Where do you place that partnership on the spectrum and why?
- What does your partnership entail?
- Do you have an Memorandum of Understanding/MOU?

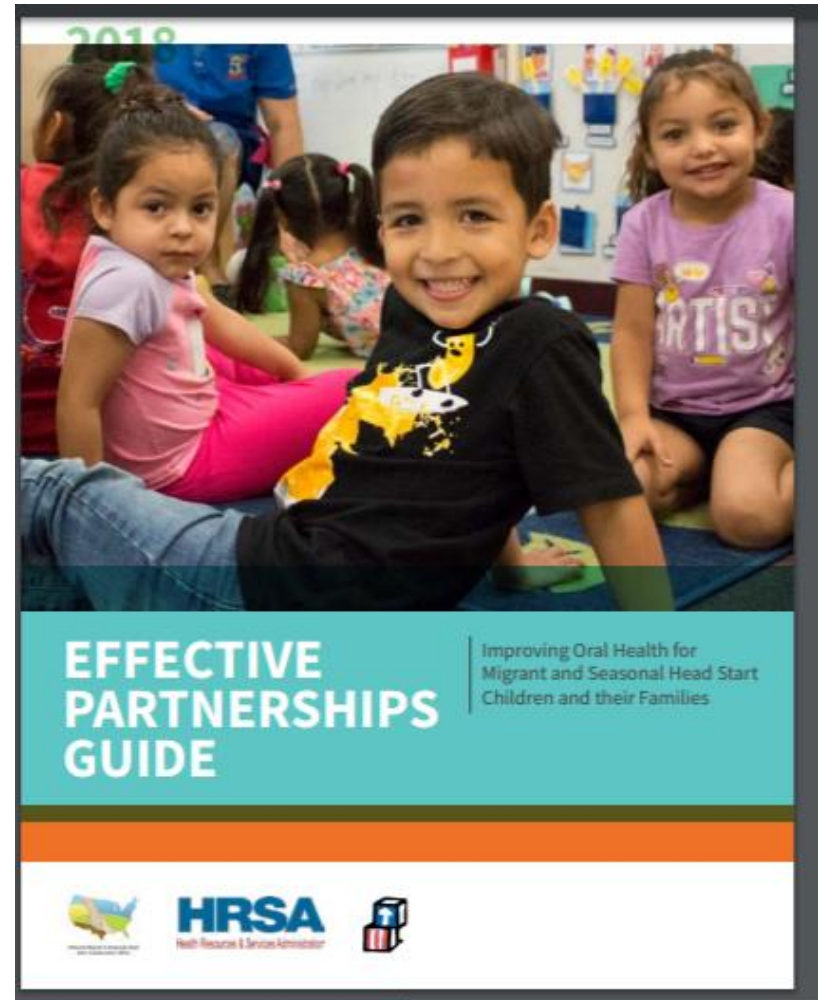
Assessing Your Partnership – Let's Discuss!

- How many placed your partnership on the trust side of the collaboration spectrum (coordinate, collaborate)?
- How many placed your partnership on the turf side of the collaboration spectrum (coexist, communicate)?
- Why did you place your partnerships where you did?
- What distinguishes a partnership on the co-exist/communicate side of the spectrum from a partnership on the coordinate/collaborate side of the spectrum?

Introduction to MOUs

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) **formalizes the partnership** between the Migrant Head Start site and the Health Center. It details the **roles and responsibilities** of **each partner**. It helps reduce any confusion or uncertainty down the road and ensure that the **needs of both groups** are adequately addressed.

- *Effective Partnerships Guide: Improving Oral Health for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Children and their Families*



Definitions



- Contracts
 - Usually legally binding, created for business purposes, or to ensure the safety of one's assets



- MOUs
 - Based on relationships



- Agreements
 - Can be both legally binding or non legal

Poll – Do you have an MOU or a contract?



What Makes a Strong MOU?

- Statement of the overall intent/purpose of the MOU
 - Common goal
 - Common expectations
 - Common cause
 - Common agreements/compromises
- Keep descriptions simple and realistic
 - Spell out what you mean
 - Avoid checklists, vagueness
 - Specify who are the services for?
 - Child and/or family member/parent



What Makes a Strong MOU?

- Be specific. Spell out what you mean
 - Education
 - Trainings
 - Special Activities
 - Data sharing
 - Recruitment
 - Health fairs
 - Parent meetings
 - Letters of Support
- MOU should be living, active, fluid
 - MOUs need to be monitored and revisited
 - Signatures = Authority vs. Delegation



Challenges and Strategies

- Challenge – Creating partnerships that are sustainable
- Strategies:
 - MOUs that involve all staff levels involved in partnership from outreach to C-suite
 - Revisit MOUs annually
- Challenge – Competing priorities
- Strategies:
 - Be clear about expectations
 - Meet and plan to identify and align priorities (esp. pre- and post-season)
 - Coordinate with other community organizations

Navigating the Partnership During COVID-19

Migrant Head Start and health centers navigated numerous challenges during the COVID pandemic

- Closure of Migrant Head Start sites
- Elimination/reduction of outreach activities
- Staff furloughs/turnover

Supporting farmworker families

- Access to health care
- Access to food
- Access to community resources

How can Migrant Head Start and the health center work together to respond to the pandemic? What lessons can be applied to strengthen the partnership in the months/years ahead?

Questions



For more information...

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