

2022 Midwest Stream Forum for Migrant and Community Health

Conducting Outreach and Building Referral Networks

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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Objectives

Learn techniques and resources used in MI to conduct outreach that can be adopted in your state

Learn Michigan's approach to building interagency partnerships

Learn how interagency networks are used for referrals to meet the needs of agricultural workers

Michigan's Farmworkers: An Overview

How many migrant & seasonal farmworkers in MI?

- 94,167 MSFWs and dependents; 61,564 migrants
- 27,965 migrant children ages 0-19
- 10,599 migrant children ages 5-12
- 7,718 migrant children under 5

Michigan Agricultural Workers:

- Migrant Farmworkers
- Seasonal Farmworkers
- H-2A Guestworkers
- Food Processing Workers
- Dairy, Poultry, and Livestock Workers

Michigan Update Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study, 2013.
www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/FarmworkerReport_430130_7.pdf



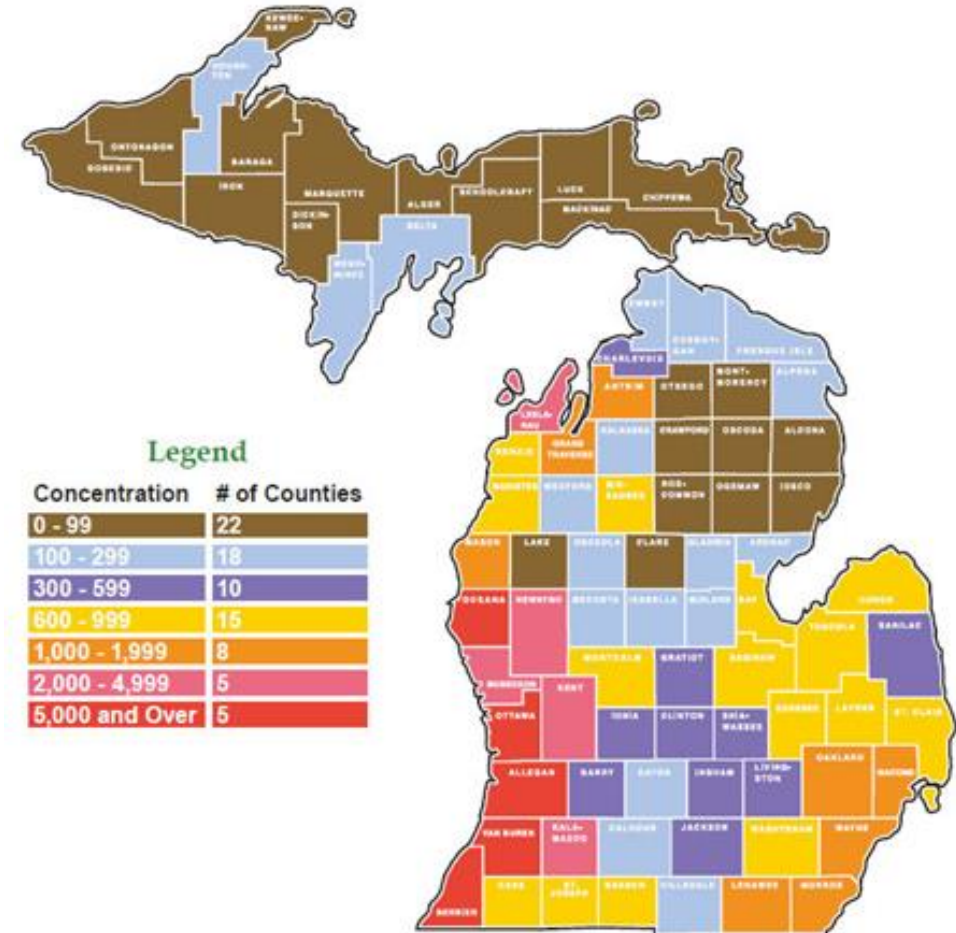
Michigan's Farmworkers: An Overview

Top 5 Counties:
(Migrant workers & dependents)

1. Ottawa (9,084)
2. Van Buren (8,527)
3. Oceana (4,738)
4. Berrien (4,496)
5. Allegan (3,458)

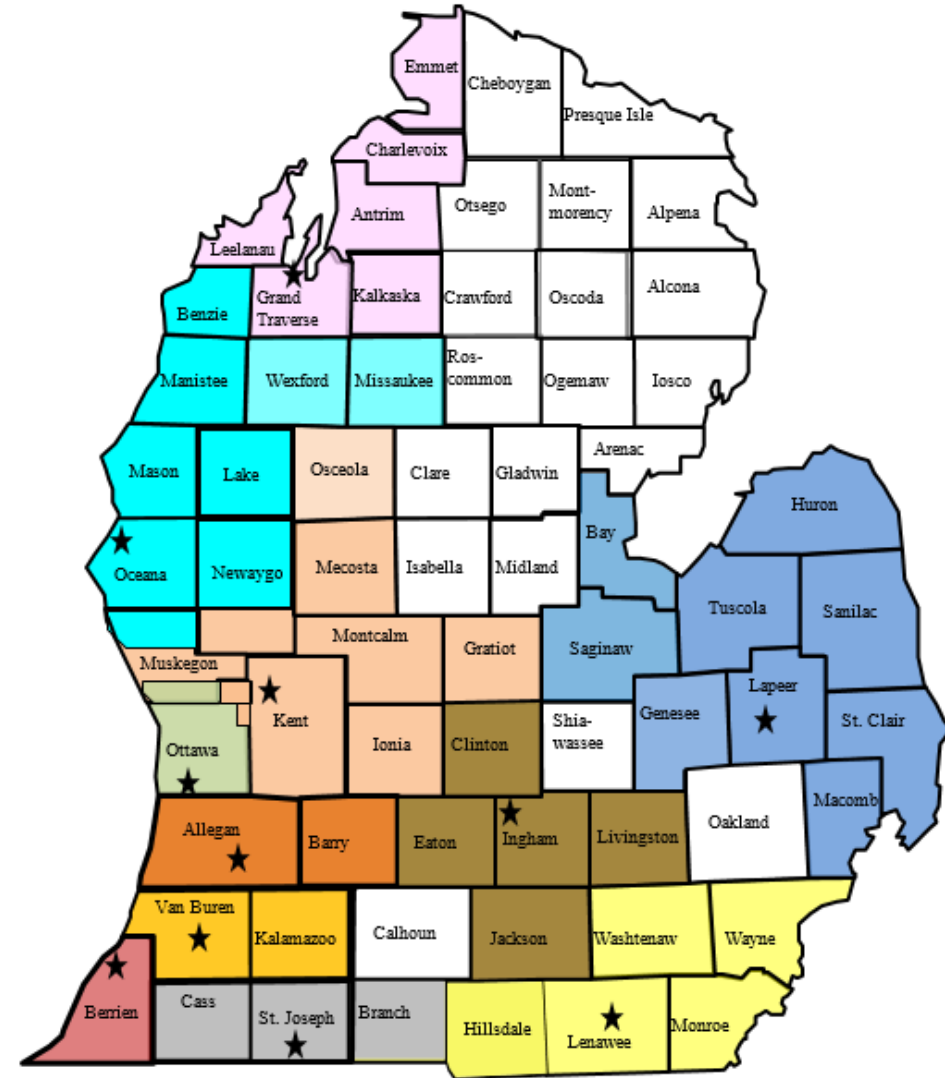
NOTE: Map indicates migrant & seasonal workers & dependents.

http://michigan.gov/documents/dhs/FINALFactSheet_431867_7.pdf?20130823162225



MDHHS Migrant Program Service Map

- 38 Migrant Program Specialists located in 11 local DHHS offices with the majority of Agricultural Workers in the State
- Provide Outreach and Services to Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers in 49 Counties, including transportation and interpretation
- Provide Public Benefits and Referrals
 - Medicaid
 - Food Assistance
 - Child Care Assistance
 - Emergency Assistance
 - Cash Assistance



Objective 1: Learn techniques and resources used in MI to conduct outreach

Importance of Outreach



INFORM



IDENTIFY



OBSERVE



FOLLOW-UP



CONNECT



Challenges for Families Identified through Outreach

Access to Child Care

Access to Healthcare in Rural Settings

Lack of Transportation

Housing Availability / Quality

Immigration Fears

Determining Areas of Outreach

PURPOSE OF OUTREACH

AREAS OF CONCERN

AREAS IN NEED OF RESOURCES

REPORTS FROM FARMWORKERS

REQUEST FOR OUTREACH



Research Information



TYPE OF FARMWORKER
COMMUNITY



TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT



NUMBER OF WORKERS



LOCATION



ARE DATABASES
AVAILABLE?



Resources for Determining Locations

- Internet Research to Identify Farms
- Use MDARD Migrant Labor Housing List
 - [Microsoft Power BI \(powerbigov.us\)](https://powerbigov.us)
- H-2A Job Order Lists
 - <https://www.mitalent.org/>
 - [Homepage | SeasonalJobs.dol.gov](https://www.seasonaljobs.dol.gov)
 - <https://farmworkerlaw.org/h-2a-program>
- USDOL Farm Labor Contractor List
 - <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/agriculture/mspa/farm-labor-contractors>
- Agency Partnerships

After
Identifying
Areas of
Outreach

Plan the Route

Review CDC COVID Data Tracker
[CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

Going Prepared

Accessing Camps

Park in a safe spot

Present and Identify Yourself

Be courteous and respectful

Assert your right to access

Safety matters

When Speaking with Workers

Friendly Introduction

Purpose of Visit

Services your office provides

Actively listen during conversation to determine other needs

Do Referrals

New
Outreach
Methods
since the
Pandemic

Social Media Engagement

Mailings

Radio ads and Interviews

Texting/Whatsapp Messaging

Phone Banking

Collaboration and Coordination

Objective 2: Learn Michigan's approach to building interagency partnerships

Michigan
Interagency
Migrant
Services
Committee
(IMSC)

Formed in 1972

Mission: Improve quality of life of farmworkers through coordination of services

Membership Is Diverse & Comprehensive

- ❖ All state & federal agencies providing services to farmworkers
- ❖ Farmworker advocates
- ❖ Grower interests

IMSC History

1960s

- “Harvest of Shame” documentary
- Some changes to federal law for farmworkers

1968, 1969—Michigan Civil Rights Commission Reports on Farmworker Conditions with recommendations

1970—Governor’s Task Force on Migrants issues recommendations

1972—Designated individuals from state departments form the Interagency Committee on Migrant Affairs

1972—Governor proposes a federal-level interagency committee

1976—Governor designates MDHHS as lead state agency

1978—Governor renames & institutionalizes Interagency Committee by Executive Order

IMSC Purpose

- ❖ Governor's charge to IMSC in 1978--Provide forum for the following:
 - ❖ Communication among state agencies
 - ❖ Resolution of problems
 - ❖ Development of a state strategy
 - ❖ Policy recommendations to Governor's Office
- Mission (2009 Bylaws): To coordinate the delivery of services to MSFWs and to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of views, problems, and solutions between all parties concerned with MSFW labor and related services in an effort to improve the quality of life for MSFWs.

IMSC Membership

State agencies: Dept. of Ag, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Workforce Development, Dept. of Civil Rights, Dept. of Ed, and others

Federal agencies: Department of Ag--Rural Development, SSA, USDOL

Educational institutions: MSU Migrant Student Services, Telamon Migrant Head Start, others

Farmworker service providers: Legal, health, migrant ed, immigration assistance

Grower interests - Michigan Farm Bureau

IMSC cont.

IMSC meets monthly year-round; currently meeting virtually, but normally in-person, rotating meeting locations to member agencies

MDHHS Director Office of Migrant Affairs permanent Chair

Ad hoc and Standing subcommittees

Health Subcommittee

New in 2022

Review Policies impacting farmworker health

Develop educational materials and resources for farmworkers regarding managing chronic conditions and COVID-19

Recommend changes to Governor's Office regarding expanding Emergency Services Only Medicaid

Policy, Advocacy, & Civil Rights Subcommittee

Purpose

Purpose: To convene state agencies and non-state partners to ensure fair and beneficial policies for Michigan farmworkers and their families

Review

Review Michigan policies affecting farmworkers and their families and advocate for policy changes

Develop

Develop metrics to measure agency progress.

Report

Report annually on agency progress to the Civil Rights Commission.

Data Task Force

- Purpose: To convene state agencies and non-state partners to support the collection and analysis of data to improve service delivery and advocacy.
 - Goal: Support efforts to expand and share knowledge of the MSFW population
-

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study



Housing Subcommittee

- ❖ Purpose: To convene state agencies and non-state partners to identify issues, share best practices and develop solutions related to availability and quality of migrant housing.
- ❖ Goal: Identify housing needs and issues related to housing availability and quality. Ensure that migrant housing is inspected and licensed.



Michigan Migrant Child Task Force



❖ **Mission**

- ❖ To promote the well-being of Michigan's Migrant children through the education of their caregivers, advocacy for effective public policy, and collaboration with community partners.

❖ **Vision**

- ❖ Healthy Migrant children today. Strong communities tomorrow. Cultivating hope.

❖ **Priority Areas**

- ❖ Access to community services
- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Caregiver development and supports
- ❖ Public awareness and outreach

❖ **Outreach Events**

Outreach & Education Subcommittee

Purpose: To provide training and resources to ensure effective and safe services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers by service providers and community members.

Increase safety and share accurate information for outreach workers through training.

Create resources for outreach workers.

Coordinate the planning of the bi-annual statewide event.

Webpage [Link](#)

Outreach & Education Subcommittee Trainings

Lunch and Learn Webinars for those who serve MSFWs

- Topics include Farmworker Health, Farmworker Housing Resources, Employment Assistance

Annual Outreach Worker Training

- Topics include Personal Safety for Outreach Workers, Reporting Apparent Violations and Complaints, Cultural Competence and Communications, Human Trafficking, Farmworker Legal Rights, Camp Access and Child Labor

Bi-annual Conference for MSFWs, Growers and Service Providers

- State Directors' Update
- Awards and Honors
- Workshops
- Housing Standards and Enforcement
- MSU CAMP Program
- Ag Employer Panel
- "Hot" Topics
- Technology to serve MSFWs



Regional Migrant Resource Councils

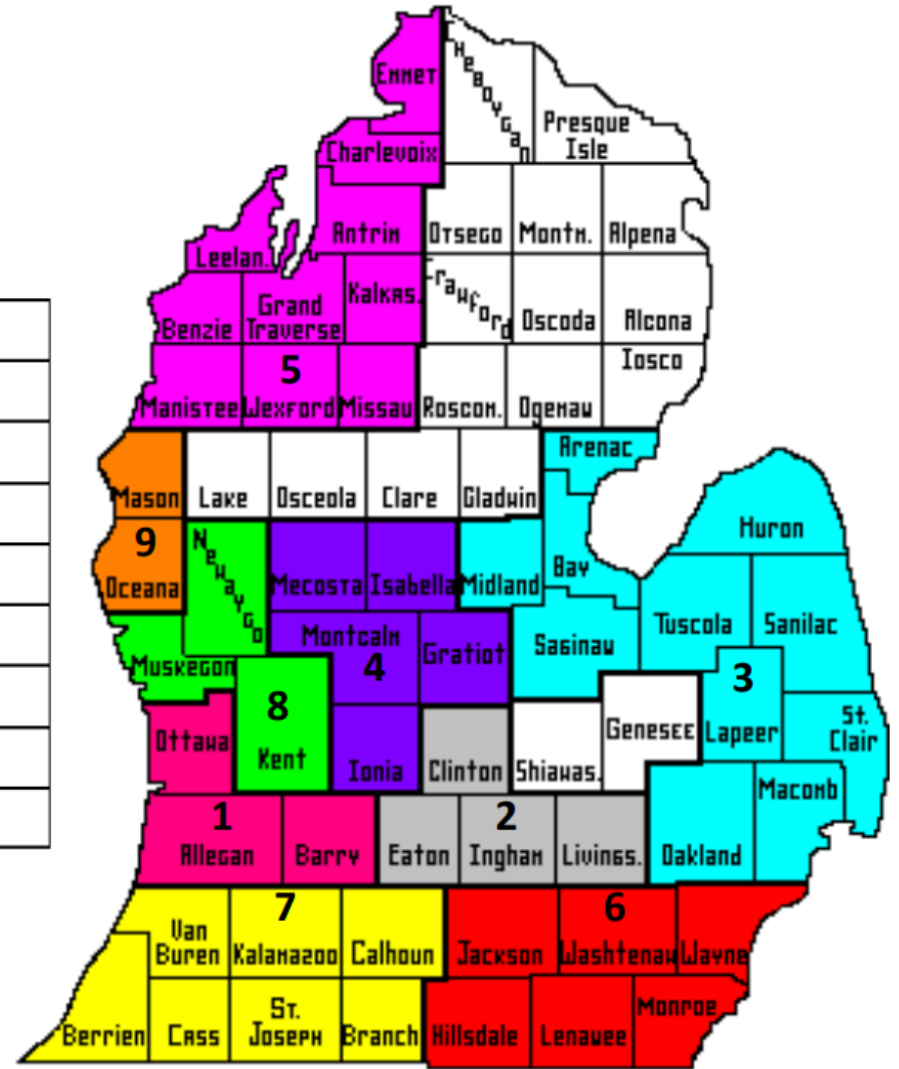
- ❖ Migrant Resource Councils (MRC) improve the quality of life of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families by providing a forum for local coordination and cooperation on matters related to the wellbeing of farmworkers within their service area. Members are public and private agency representatives, growers, farmworkers, and concerned citizens. The MRCs meet monthly during the peak season with the purpose of:
 - ❖ Exchanging information on services to farmworkers.
 - ❖ Reducing duplication of services.
 - ❖ Identifying unmet needs of farmworkers and their families.
 - ❖ Establishing referral networks.
 - ❖ Coordinating service delivery.



MRCs cont.

- Agency Resource Guides for Farmworkers
- Farmworker Appreciation Events
- Farmworker Informational Meetings
- Pre-Season / Post-Season Conferences
- Grower Meetings
- Gift Bag Giveaways
- Health Fairs
- Christmas Basket Events

	1—Allegan/Ottawa/Barry MRC
	2—Capital Area MRC
	3—Great Lakes MRC
	4—Mid-Michigan MRC
	5—Northwest Michigan MRC
	6—Southeastern Michigan MRC
	7—Southwestern Michigan MRC
	8—Sparta Area MRC
	9—West Michigan MRC





Migrant Community Workgroups

Workgroups of agency partners created by MDHHS and the Governor's Office to meet weekly to implement COVID-19 testing and vaccine events and coordinate support services:

- Identify Needs
- Provide Updates
- Coordinate Testing and Vaccine Events
- Report of Agricultural Workers who Tested Positive for COVID-19
- Coordinate Service Delivery to Positive Workers

Workgroup Members

Michigan Governor's Executive Office

MDARD Migrant Labor Housing Program

MDHHS Office of Migrant Affairs and Migrant Program

MI LEO Agricultural Employment Services

Michigan Primary Care Association

Local FQHCs

Local Health Departments

Community Action Agencies

Wrap-around Services



PPE and Housing Cleaning Products through Donations



Food Baskets from Community Action Agencies



Isolation Benefit, Housing



COVID-19 Testing, Vaccine Events

Building Connections with your Area Agencies

- Reach out to organizations in your area who either provide services to ag workers or are a service needed by the ag workers you serve
- Request introductory meeting
- Offer your services to their clientele
- Invite on outreach to migrant camps
- Collaborate on a community event for ag workers, such as a Health Fair

What referral networks do you have in your states?

Objective 3: Learn how interagency networks are used for referrals to meet the needs of agricultural workers

Interagency MSFW Referral Form

- ❖ Developed by WDA, MDARD, MIOSHA, and sub committee members
- ❖ Report Apparent Violations
- ❖ Referred to Appropriate Agency for Investigation
- ❖ Connect to Services

Interagency MSFW Referral Form [link](#)

Interagency Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Referral Form		
Please transmit to contact below or appropriate agency within one day of observation		
Observer	Location of Observation	Housing Provider (if known)
Type of Referral	Camp ID / Living Unit	Business / Company
Contact Name	Street Address	Contact Name
Phone	City, State, Zip	Phone
Email	County, Township, Section	Email
Type of Referral	Observation Details	
Issues Observed (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Conditions / Occupancy <input type="checkbox"/> Field Sanitation / WorkConditions <input type="checkbox"/> Wage Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Child labor <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Discrimination Human <input type="checkbox"/> Trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>	Observation Date / Time	5 or More Migrant Ag Workers
	Number of Ag Workers	Language(s) Spoken
	Home State(s)	Total Employees Present
	Total Housing Occupants	Number of Children Under 12
	Services Needed for Individual, Family, or Camp?	
	Description of Issue Observed and/or Services Needed	
Services Needed (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>	
Submit form to Audra Fuentes, MDHHS/Office of Migrant Affairs at FuentesA@michigan.gov. For Questions, call (269) 615-6308		

IMSC, MRCs, Workgroups

- ❖ Expansive Email Listservs meet immediate needs of farmworkers
 - ❖ Car Seats
 - ❖ Hotels
 - ❖ Health Emergencies
- ❖ Work together in emergencies
- ❖ Have phone numbers and emails of members to reach out directly





Engaging Growers

- Access to Assistance Programs for Employees
 - Transportation, if available
 - Events in the Camps
- Partnering with Area Service Providers
 - Presentations by service providers at Meetings or Job Orientations
 - Migrant Resource Councils
- Improving Housing
 - Safety for workers and children
 - Migrant Housing Loans available through USDA

Questions/Comments

- For more information,
contact:

Audra Fuentes

Departmental Analyst

(269) 615-6308

fuentesa@michigan.gov

Thank you for attending!