

# **Health Insurance Among Agricultural Workers: Increasing Access and Utilization**

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Farmworker Justice is a national farmworker organization based in Washington, DC that seeks to empower farmworkers to improve their health, occupational safety, living and working conditions, and access to health care.

[www.farmworkerjustice.org](http://www.farmworkerjustice.org)

# Farmworker Justice

- Introductions
- Policy Update
- Getting Ready for Open Enrollment 2018
- Strategies to Increase Health Insurance and Health Care Access and Utilization
- Resources
- Questions/Conclusion

# Agenda



**Who's In the Room??**

- **35%** of agricultural workers reported having health insurance (according to 2014 NAWS)
  - 31% had employer-provided health insurance
  - 37% had government-provided health insurance
  - H-2A workers are not included in the NAWS
- **38.7%** of migrant health center patients were uninsured (according to 2016 UDS data)

## **Current State of AgWorker Health Insurance Status**

- Who's enrolling?
- Have you seen an increase or decrease in number of agricultural workers enrolling over the past few years?
- Are the workers you enrolled coming to the health center to use services?

**Are Agricultural Workers Enrolling Health Insurance?**

- Congressional efforts to repeal and replace the ACA
  - American Health Care Act
  - Better Care Reconciliation Act
- SEP Pre-Enrollment Verification

**What Happened Over the Summer**

- Congress
  - Bipartisan Hearings on Market Stabilization
  - Cassidy-Graham Proposal
  - CHIP reauthorization
- Outreach, Education, and Navigator Funding
- Future of CSRs?

**What's Happening Now**



- Open Enrollment starts Nov. 1, ends Dec. 15



Photo courtesy of NC Farmworkers Project

**Getting Ready for Open Enrollment  
2018**

- Are workers/patients aware of the shorter open enrollment period?
- What questions/concerns are you receiving?
- What challenges are you anticipating? How are you planning to overcome these challenges?
- Is there anything you plan to do differently this open enrollment period?

**Getting Ready for Open Enrollment  
2018**



# **Strategies to Increase Health Insurance and Health Care Access Utilization – Small Group Discussion**

- National
  - Families USA Enrollment Assister Resource Center (<http://familiesusa.org/initiatives/enrollment-assister-resource-center>)
  - NCAs
- State
  - North Carolina Farmworker Health Insurance Team

**Strategies to Increase Health Insurance and Health Care Access Utilization**

- Local
  - Partnerships
    - Employers
    - Community organizations
  - Agworker-focused education
    - Peer-to-peer education (via promotores de salud)
    - NC H-2A video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRpHIZf9-bY>)
    - WA H-2A enrollment cards
  - Sustained in-person assistance



**Strategies to Increase Health Insurance and Health Care Access Utilization**

More information on agricultural workers and health insurance can be found on FJ's website at

<http://www.farmworkerjustice.org/content/access-healthcare-0>

Resources include:

- Fact sheets for workers
- Issue Briefs

**FJ Resources**



**Questions**

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**Thank You!**