

Agricultural Worker (Farmworker) Status Verification: Introduction

[The U.S. Public Health Service Act, Section 330g](#) (Migrant Health) authorized grants to health center grantee to establish health services for migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (farmworkers), their families, and to migratory workers that are no longer working in agriculture due to age or disability. Agencies that receive migrant health funds must assure that those funds are used to provide health services to the agricultural worker population. One way to ensure compliance with this requirement is to establish a standard process for verifying agricultural worker status for new health center patients. *Status verification* is the process by which Health Center Program grantees determine whether individual seeking primary health care services can be classified as a *migratory* or *seasonal* agricultural worker, as defined by Program Legislation and interpreted by the Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care on its [2015 Uniform Data System Manual \(p.47\)](#). The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) expects every health center grantee to develop a policy and procedure for verifying “*Special Population*” designation of its users, including agricultural workers. It is important to note that the Migrant Health [Program Statute](#) and [Regulations](#) are silent on the definitions of some key terms such as seasonality, family, and principal employment, among others. Therefore, in creating this toolbox, it is NCFH’s intent to provide practical recommendations based on our understanding of Congress’ intent when this Law was enacted, as well as the current barriers to care faced by the target population.