



Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Worker (MSAW) Status Verification: Points to Remember

When establishing your agricultural worker status verification policy and procedure, please remember:

- Identification and documentation of Special Population (SP) Status (e.g., Migratory or Seasonal, Homeless, Public Housing, or Veteran) is important for the purposes of reporting and for treatment and follow up. Health Centers are required to report the number of patients that they serve who meet SP criteria.
- Identification and verification of SP Status and determining how services provided will be paid for are two separate functions that are often confused at the front desk during the intake process. SP status is not an indication of insurance coverage or a third-party payment source. Verifying insurance coverage, and/or income status for determination of sliding fee scale eligibility determines who and how services will be paid.
- Brief screening questions should be asked of all patients to identify SP status. Health Centers can add these screening questions to their registration forms. (See sample registration form in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).)
- To help identify and verify agricultural worker patients, utilize [NCFH's Ag Worker Identification Digital Training Tool](#).
- Verification questions need to be asked of the parent/guardian if the patient is a minor or a dependent.
- Agricultural workers and family members are broadly defined as an extended family and the term is not restricted to immediate family relationships such as mother, father, son, daughter, etc. "Family" may include grandparents, domestic partners, common law relationships, and other extended family members living together within a designated catchment area.
- When describing their occupation, the majority of the MSAWs do not identify themselves with the terms *migratory*, *seasonal*, *aged* or *disabled*. They tend to describe themselves either by the crop they are working on, by the task they are performing, or by the location of their employment (see [How MSAWs Identify Themselves](#) and [Agricultural Tasks Performed by Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers](#)).
- The term agriculture means farming in all its branches as defined by the Office of Management and Budget-developed North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and includes those workers employed in crop production, animal production and aquaculture, as well as support activities for both crop and animal production (see [Uniform Data System \(UDS\) 2021 Health Center Data Reporting Requirements](#)).
- Mobile populations such as migratory or recently settled seasonal agricultural workers may not have access to the documentation that your Health Center may require.

Tools and Resources are available in the [Health Center Toolbox on the NCFH website](#). For further questions and information, [contact NCFH](#).

