

NCFH Impact Report 2025



NCFH

National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.

Letter from the CEO



2025 was a year that called for steadiness, resilience, and leadership.

As national priorities, funding structures, and programmatic landscapes evolved, the National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) remained firmly anchored in its mission: to improve the health and well-being of farmworkers and their families across the United States.

This year reminded us that our work has always required adaptability. More than six decades ago, a national system of care was established to ensure farmworkers could access essential health services. Today, that system lives on through the health centers and outreach programs across the country that serve as the primary safety net for farmworker families. Their commitment, often demonstrated in complex and changing conditions, ensures that this foundation remains strong.

In 2025, farmworkers once again demonstrated extraordinary strength. In the midst of shifting conditions and emerging challenges, they continued the essential work that sustains our nation's food system. Their resilience reinforces why our commitment must remain constant.

Throughout the year, NCFH served as a steady and trusted partner to health centers and farmworker-serving organizations nationwide. As health centers adapted to evolving requirements while maintaining high-quality, comprehensive and responsive care, we provided timely training, technical assistance, and clear guidance to support both ongoing and emerging needs. Through our partnership with the CDC, we also responded to emerging public health threats, including avian influenza, by working nationally with partners to raise awareness, share guidance, and support prevention efforts among farmworker communities. By keeping partners informed, interpreting developments affecting farmworker health, and fostering collaboration across the network, we strengthened coordination and infrastructure that make accessible, high-quality care possible for farmworkers and their families nationwide.

While the landscape continues to evolve, our purpose does not. Alongside the health centers and organizations that serve them, we remain committed to promoting fairness and dignity in health care and ensuring that those who feed our nation have access to the services, resources, and respect they deserve.

Alicia Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer

2025 Highlights

National survey



NCFH and partners conducted in-person surveys with over 700 dairy workers in six states to document their access to health care and their knowledge of H5N1 in cattle and humans.

Chronic disease management



NCFH provided hands-on capacity-building support to health centers pursuing the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) certification. This past year, we engaged 13 health center sites in preparation for the certification process.

5 years of outreach



We partnered with 55 organizations to reach farmworkers and their families across the country with education, support, and relief payments.

Training & TA



We conducted 93 training and workshop sessions with more than 6,700 participants, addressing emerging issues and farmworker-focused topics such as avian influenza, promising practices to increase access to care, and strategies to respond to tobacco use, heat stress, and natural disasters.

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Farmworker training session in Minnesota

Photo by Fe y Justicia

Trainings, Workshops, and Small Group Sessions

As a national capacity-building organization, we take pride in offering healthcare professionals, community health workers, public health staff, agricultural employers, and farmworkers evidence-based, engaging trainings and educational resources. This year our most popular training topics included H5N1 bird flu, non-medical health related needs, emergency preparedness, and population health management.

This year we:

- Facilitated 23 small group sessions with over 300 participants.
- Trained 44 farmworkers in Spanish, Mixteco, Tsotsil, and Tzeltal on pesticide safety, in partnership with the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP).
- Conducted 57 virtual training sessions with 5,970 participants.
- Held 26 educational sessions at our national symposia with 278 registrants.

National Symposia



NCFH's Agricultural Worker Health Symposia are designed around three core pillars: in-depth learning, community and connectedness, and leadership development. In 2025, NCFH hosted two national Symposia, a spring event in Grand Rapids, Michigan and fall event in Phoenix, Arizona bringing together 278 attendees to build community, learn best practices, and problem solve to improve access to care for farmworkers. Attendees representing health centers, government agencies, and community based organizations, convened from 28 states across the two events. During each event, attendees visited local farms, toured exemplary health centers, and convened to learn about emerging issues and new strategies to advance farmworker health in over 25 educational sessions.

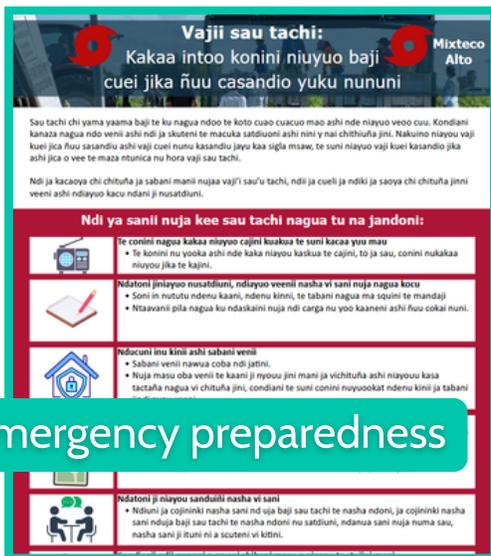
"I appreciated the vibrant energy that was reflected at the symposium. Beyond the invaluable learning opportunities, I found great value in cultivating meaningful connections and exchanging insights with dedicated health centers and organizations from across the nation. This collaborative environment inspired me and reinforced the shared commitment we hold in advancing agricultural health."

~A Spring Symposium attendee

Resources & Publications

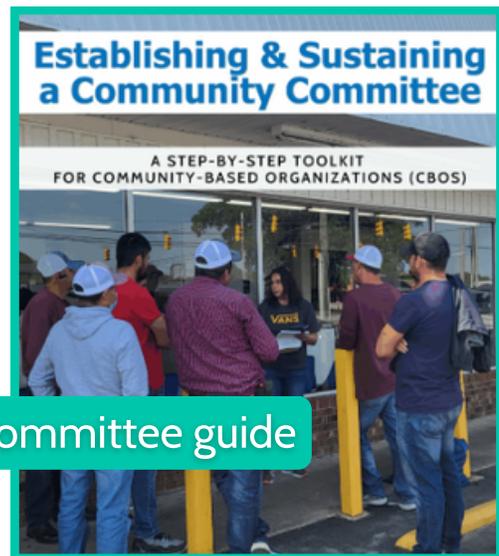
We are committed to producing resources in a variety of formats, including digital, print, and audio, that promote health education and information within farmworker populations and ultimately increase access to quality healthcare for farmworkers while working in the U.S. Each educational material developed specifically for farmworkers is also reviewed by our Farmworker Health Education Committee, which includes crop and livestock farmworkers from the U.S., Mexico, and Honduras.

The NCFH team published 24 resources in 7 different languages this year!



Emergency preparedness

NCFH health educators developed a [resource to help prepare](#) farmworker families who live in hurricane-prone areas. It's available in English, Spanish, and Mixteco Alto.



Committee guide

This [toolkit](#) provides concrete steps to run a successful community committee that provides both high-level and detail oriented guidance to community projects.



Lyme disease

Building on our work with the CDC since 2022, we created a simple [tailgate talk](#) about Lyme disease prevention and treatment for outdoor workers. The training was tested and evaluated by community health workers with 100 farmworkers in central Virginia, an area that is endemic for Lyme disease. Outdoor workers, including farmworkers, may have an increased risk of tick bites in many areas.

First EPA-Approved Pesticide Safety Videos in Indigenous Languages

With funding from the Pesticide Education Resource Collaborative (PERC), NCFH was able to partner with Indigenous farmworker leaders in South Texas and with the Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) to produce the first-ever pesticide safety education videos in Indigenous languages that meet the training requirement to satisfy the Worker Protection Standard. The videos are dubbed in Tsotsil, Tzeltal, and Mixteco (San Martín Peras variety) and were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. You can view and share the videos on [YouTube](#).



Pesticide safety videos are available in Tsotsil, Tzeltal, and Mixteco. All videos were reviewed and co-edited in partnership with Indigenous farmworkers fluent in these languages.



Farmworker

Surveys



We interviewed 708 dairy workers in California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington about H5N1.

The H5N1 avian influenza virus first jumped from birds into dairy cattle in Texas in late 2023 or early 2024. The virus adapted and spread rapidly across the country, affecting most states with large dairy herd populations.

About 8 in 10 survey participants were born in Mexico, and 15% spoke an Indigenous language or identified as racially or ethnically Indigenous. Participants had an average of 8.3 years working in the U.S.

Only 61% of dairy workers had heard of H5N1 or bird flu, and just 40% were aware that it could cause severe illness in humans. Despite the low level of knowledge about H5N1, workers were generally open to a possible H5N1 vaccine for humans, with 69% reporting they definitely or probably would be vaccinated if it were to become available.



H5N1 Avian Influenza

Focus Group Sessions

NCFH staff facilitated focus group sessions with 52 dairy and poultry workers in Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas during 2024 and 2025 to better understand dairy and poultry workers' knowledge of and responses to H5N1 avian influenza. Information from the focus groups was used to inform CDC response staff and public health partners, and to inform trainings and health education materials developed by NCFH. Focus group discussions ranged from how their employers responded to H5N1 to access to health care in the U.S. to workers' deep knowledge of husbandry practices.

Participants were primarily from Mexico and Guatemala. Key findings from both years included:

- Most participants had heard of the virus, but weren't familiar with conjunctivitis as a symptom in humans, which was the most commonly reported symptom in documented U.S. cases.
- Participants reported challenges in accessing most of the recommended personal protective equipment. Gloves were the only PPE item routinely provided to workers by their employers.
- Health care access issues were brought up frequently, primarily because of a lack of insurance, a lack of paid sick leave, and issues in reaching health care sites.

National Center for Farmworker Health

—Outreach and partnerships

Five Years of

Farmworker Outreach

Beginning in 2020, NCFH began to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to start a national network of organizations serving farmworkers in rural areas, with the goal of reaching thousands of farmworker families with culturally-appropriate health education and tangible support across the country. NCFH lost federal grant funding for the Network in 2025, but continues to stay in close communication and provide ongoing training, peer collaboration opportunities, and quarterly network calls through funding provided by the Clif Family Foundation.

2.13 million

Educational interactions with farmworker families were conducted by NCFH Farmworker Outreach Network partners from 2020-2025. They visited thousands of work sites, housing sites, and community locations to reach farmworkers with public health information.



\$26.7 million

in relief payments were given to more than 44,000 farmworkers and meatpacking workers who labored during the pandemic by NCFH and Network partners in 22 states from 2022 to 2025. The program was administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and NCFH was one of 17 partners across the country who distributed this critical relief.

NCFH Farmworker Outreach Network

"It's been a major benefit to count on the economic support, the guidance, and the materials provided by NCFH."

Carlos,
Border Agricultural Workers Project
NCFH Farmworker Outreach
Network partner 2020-2025

"Being part of this network has been incredibly valuable for our organization. It creates a strong sense of collaboration and support among outreach workers who share similar goals, especially around protecting the health and safety of vulnerable worker populations. Through the network, we gain access to timely information, culturally relevant materials, and training opportunities that strengthen our local impact."

Maribel, Amador Health Center
NCFH Farmworker Outreach
Network Partner 2024-2025

Media Coverage

NCFH serves as a national expert for the media on current and emerging health issues affecting agricultural communities. We are committed to providing fact-based, ground information that helps shape the national narrative about America's farmworkers. Our programs, research, and subject-matter expertise have been featured in major outlets such as The Guardian, The BBC, NPR, and the New York Times. In addition, we collaborate with our network of local partners to connect community-based organizations with trusted reporters to feature their work in local communities and ensure farmworkers' voices are represented in the media.



American Community Media



Federal budgetary and policy changes even impacted the long-standing National Agricultural Workers Survey, a vital database used by NCFH and dozens of other farmworker organizations.

Inside Climate News

Inside Climate News



NCFH staff's research and programmatic work on heat stress among farmworkers and outdoor workers has been cited in several nonpartisan media organizations.



National Public Radio

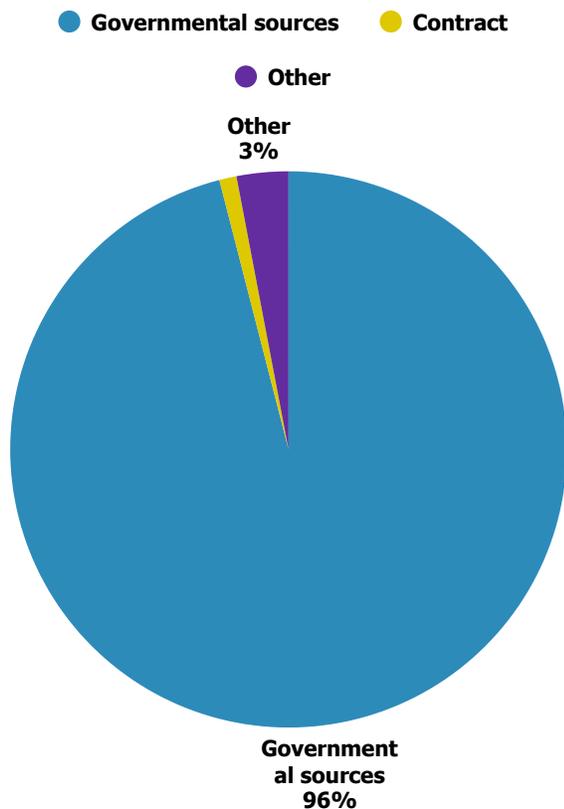
NCFH continued to appear in coverage by major media outlets, such as NPR and the New York Times, about H5N1 avian influenza, especially as human cases suddenly stopped being reported by federal agencies during 2025.

Funding & Financial Outlook

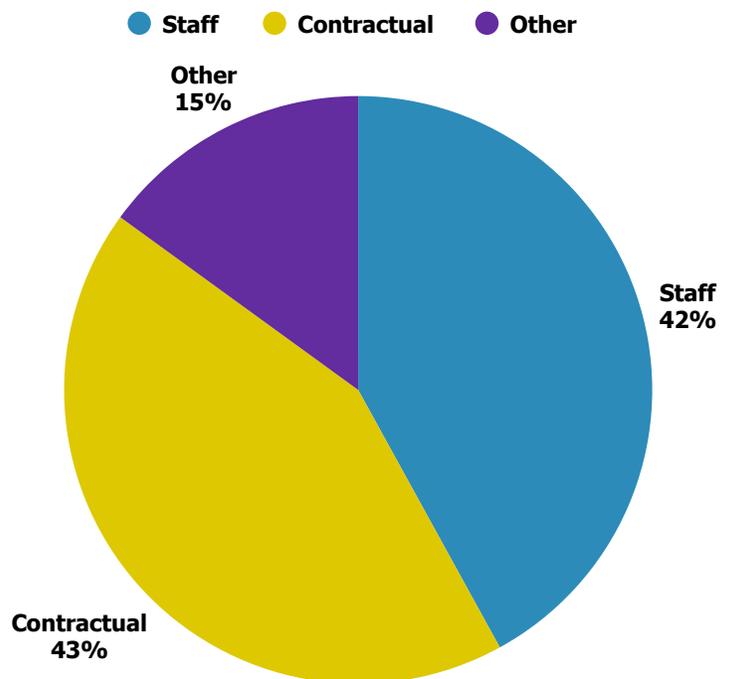
NCFH is incredibly grateful to the funders who made our innovative and impactful work possible in 2025. We would like to acknowledge these funders for their support and generosity:

- Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Pesticide Education Resource Collaborative, University of California Davis
- North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services
- California Department of Public Health
- Clif Family Foundation

Revenue (\$8.5 million)



Expenses





We always welcome new collaborations and partnerships.
Please contact us to learn more!



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