



Sample Introduction for Outreach Workers

When approaching farmworkers and growers while on outreach, there are several basic points to include in your introduction to identify who you are, what organization you work for, and the purpose of your visit. Always show your identification from your employer. Be friendly and courteous. Practice your organization's guidelines for safety due to COVID-19.

Things to take with you on outreach include flyers and brochures about your programs, the Agency Resource Guide from your local Migrant Resource Council, the Right to Access flyer, Agency Referral List, Resources for Farmworkers, the Interagency Referral Form, COVID-19 materials, and the Workplace Sexual Harassment and Assault Referral Form. Visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus for MDHHS recommendations.

For farmworkers, it is important they learn of services available to them. For growers, it is important they know of services as well and that there is a correlation between workers having access to services and employee retention.

General points to include in Introductions:

- Introduce yourself, including your name and your organization
- Describe the services and programs provided by your organization
- Distribute flyers or brochures from your organization
- Give business card with contact information

Questions to ask Farmworkers:

- How is the season going?
- Do you work for more than one employer in Michigan?
- Have you been turned away from any jobs this year?
- Are there any services you need a referral to? (health, education, child care, housing, legal, etc.)
- How did you decide to come to Michigan, and is Michigan Welcoming to you?

Questions to ask Growers:

- Do you have any migrant or seasonal farmworkers working for you that I can offer services to?
- Do you provide housing for workers?
- (If workers are working) May I speak with the workers during their break? If they say no, ask to leave brochures and flyers for the break room or to include with their paychecks.
- Are there any other growers in the area that hire migrant labor?
- How is season going?

Note: Outreach workers have a right to enter camps and visit workers where they live. Growers are not allowed to prevent visitors to the camps even if they are on their property. The Right to Access flyer validates your right to visit the workers. Be cautious about entering fields and work areas due to farm regulations. Practice CDC COVID-19 guidelines for safety, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus for more information.

How to Locate Farmworkers or Migrant Housing:

- MDARD Migrant Labor Housing Camp List; for most recent list contact Migrant Labor Housing at 517-284-5771
- Online searches for farms or nurseries/greenhouses in your county/service area
- Survey your area, stopping at farms to inquire if they employ migrant farmworkers and, if so, provide housing or know of any growers in the area that employ migrant farmworkers
- Visit area service providers and schools to inquire about farmworkers living in the area

For Languages other than English or Spanish:

There has been an increase in workers coming to Michigan that speak a language other than English or Spanish, such as Mexican/Guatemalan dialects and French Creole. Review your organization's policy on translation services and use a Translation app on your Smartphone to try to communicate basic information.