



Migrant Families in Michigan

FACT SHEET 2014



MICHIGAN DEMOGRAPHICS

- 94,167 migrant and seasonal farmworkers¹ and dependents²
- 49,135 migrant and seasonal farmworkers²
- 42,729 farmworker children are from 0 through 19 years old;² of these 27,965 migrate to Michigan and 14,764 are in seasonal working families in Michigan²
- 27,988 farmworker children are from 0 through 12 years old; of these 18,317 migrate to Michigan²
- 16,195 farmworker children are from 5 through 12 years old; of these 10,599 migrate to Michigan²
- 11,793 farmworker children are under the age of 5; of these 7,718 migrate to Michigan²
- Majority of migrant families come from Texas and Florida
- Michigan ranks 6th in the nation for the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers registered with the state for employment purposes.³

MIGRANT CHILDREN RECEIVING MICHIGAN EDUCATION SERVICES

- 1,245 farmworker children under the age of 5 enrolled in Michigan Migrant Head Start⁴
- 6,208 farmworker children enrolled in the Michigan Migrant Education Program⁵
- 1,072 farmworker children enrolled in Department of Human Services supported child day care services⁶
- 70 students enrolled in High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and 89 students in the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) in 2013-14⁷

CHALLENGES

- State-licensed migrant housing capacity is 27,963, which is short of the identified need
- Access to services due to lack of transportation, hours of operation, geographic distance, and/or lack of bi-lingual staff
- Immigration fears and access to valid Michigan drivers licenses
- Not all migrant children have access to child care and educational opportunities while in Michigan
- In the United States:
 - migrant children have a higher prevalence of food insecurity and hunger
 - many migrant children are exposed to pesticides and other environmental hazards
 - a high rate of farmworker children are uninsured compared to the national rate of other low income children

HOW CAN YOU HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN MICHIGAN?

- Contact policymakers to express support of programs to improve the lives of migrant families
- Volunteer time and donate supplies, and financial resources to the Migrant Child Task Force and/or local and state partners who work to improve the quality of life of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their family members
- Support legislative advocacy efforts to improve the lives of migrant children
- Participate in outreach coordinated by the Michigan Migrant Child Task Force of the Interagency Migrant Services Committee and events sponsored by local Migrant Resource Councils
- Consider organizing a community service event that serves migrant children and families; Cesar Chavez Day (March 30th), Farmworker Appreciation Month (July), Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)
- Consider hosting an event or a speaker at a local event
- Consider the needs of Migrant children and their families in local early childhood systems work

¹Migrant and seasonal farmworker is defined as an individual whose principle employment [51% of time] is in agriculture on a seasonal basis, who has been so employed within the last twenty-four months. ²Michigan Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profile Study, 2013. ³United States Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration Advisory Notice Guidance Letter No. 13-13, Attachment B, February 25, 2014. ⁴Telamon Corporation 2013. ⁵Michigan Department of Education 2012-13 Consolidated State Performance Report. ⁶Michigan Department of Human Services 2013. ⁷MSU and WMU enrollment for 2013-14

A Task Force Serving Migrant Children in Michigan

FACT SHEET 2014

MICHIGAN MIGRANT CHILD TASK FORCE:

MISSION: To promote the well-being of Michigan's migrant children through the education of their caregivers, advocacy for effective public policy, and collaboration with community partners.

VISION: Healthy Migrant children today. Strong communities tomorrow. Cultivating hope.

PURPOSE:

To convene partners and stakeholders to identify issues, share best practices and develop solutions related to the children (ages 0 through 21) of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

PRIORITY AREAS:

- Increase public awareness about the needs of farmworker children
- Increase access to community services (such as: education, healthcare, public benefits, transportation)
- Advocate for public policy that supports farmworker children
- Increase caregiver development and supports
- Public awareness and outreach

PARTNERS:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Legal Services
- Head Start
- Universities
- Public Health
- Human Services
- Advocacy
- Early Childhood

OUTCOMES OF TASK FORCE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

- Improved cross-referrals between Migrant Head Start and Migrant Education
- Expanded programming and use of shared facilities through Migrant Head Start and Migrant Education collaborative projects
- Improved and coordinated recruitment, outreach, and cross-referrals across partner agencies
- Successful coordination of outreach activities for public policy officials to improve dialogue with Migrant parents and childcare providers
- Continued support for culturally and linguistically appropriate training for Migrant Child-Care Providers
- Effective utilization of resources

**For more information or how you can help contact the
Michigan Office of Migrant Affairs 517-335-6432**

The Michigan Migrant Child Task Force is a subcommittee of the Michigan Interagency Migrant Services Committee whose mission is to improve the quality of life of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker and their family members in Michigan.