



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Michigan's Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Health, Services, and Accessing Care

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Farmworker Outreach Services Division

*Putting people first, with the goal of helping all Michiganders lead healthier
and more productive lives, no matter their stage in life.*

Objectives

1. Identify who makes up Michigan's farmworker population and where they are located
2. Identify common chronic illnesses farmworkers face
3. Identify barriers to accessing healthcare and discuss ways to eliminate these barriers
4. Learn about the services and resources available to migrant and seasonal farmworkers
5. Learn the importance of outreach to farmworkers and opportunities to reach farmworkers in your area



Meet the Team

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**MIGRANT SUPERVISORS &
SPECIALISTS**
11 Local County Migrant Programs



STACEY TADGERSON
Departmental Specialist

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Michigan's Agricultural Industry

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are key in the production of a wide variety of crops each year.

MI leads the nation in asparagus, black beans, cranberries, cucumbers, tart cherries, Niagra grapes, and squash.

Michigan Agriculture contributes \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

There are approximately 96,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers (and their families) in Michigan.



Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Michigan Agriculture Facts & Figures.; 2019. & Larson AC. Michigan Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study.; 2013. Accessed November 12, 2022. https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Doing-Business-with-MDHHS/Migrant-Affairs/2013_MSFW_Profiles_Study_496526_7.pdf?rev=d47139297bb9479eb07405251f322a34

Farmworker Definitions

Based on MDHHS policy, a **Migrant Farmworker** is a person who:

- Works or seeks work in agriculture or a related seasonal industry, and
- Moves away from his usual home to a temporary residence as a condition of employment or because the distance from his usual home is greater than 50 miles.

A **Seasonal Farmworker** is a person who:

- Works in agriculture or a related seasonal industry, and
- Is *not* required to be absent overnight from his permanent place of residence.

H-2A guestworker – a farmworker who comes from another country to the U.S. on an H-2A Visa to work in agriculture

Domestic farmworker – a farmworker who migrates domestically within the U.S. to work in agriculture



Michigan's Farmworkers

How many migrant & seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) are in MI?

- 10th largest in nation for number of farmworkers registered for employment with the state ¹
- 94,167 MSFWs and dependents; 61,564 migrants ²
- 27,965 migrant children ages 0-19
- 10,599 migrant children ages 5-12
- 7,718 migrant children under 5



¹ United States Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration Designation of Significant Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) States, 2014. https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/agriculture/pdfs/Significant_MSFW_State_and_One-Stop-Center-Designations_PY_2021_Final.pdf

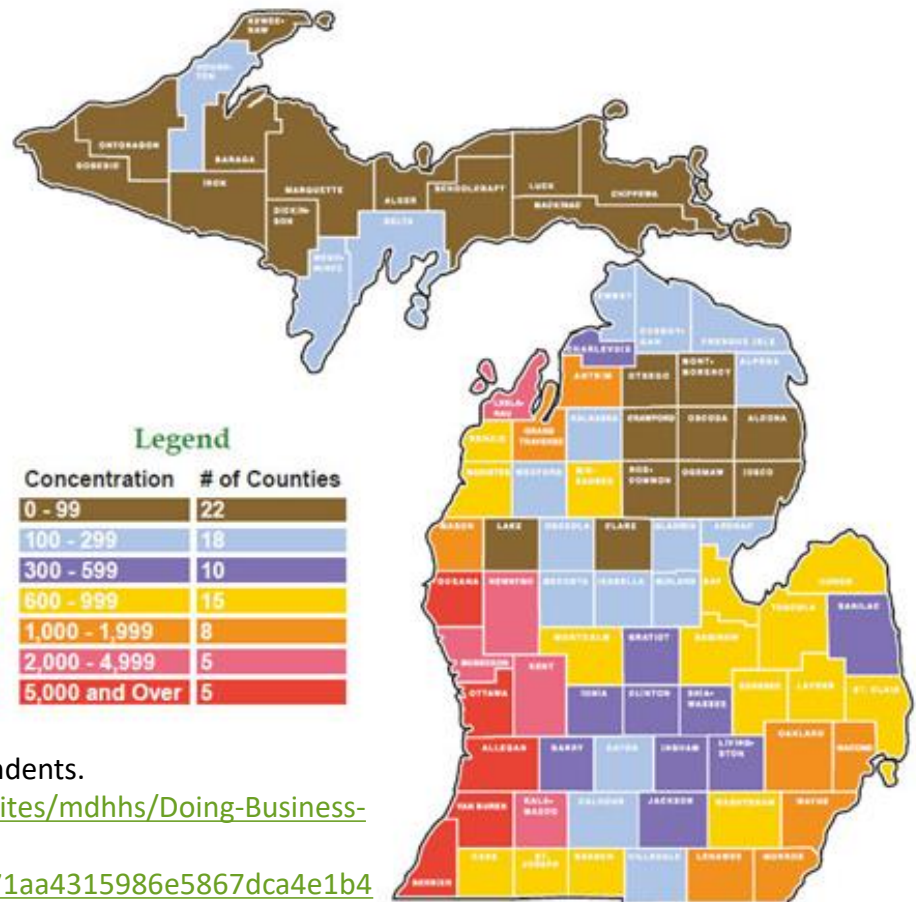
² Michigan Update Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study, 2013. www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/FarmworkerReport_430130_7.pdf

Numbers by County

Top 5 Counties:

(Migrant workers & dependents)

1. Ottawa (9,084)
2. Van Buren (8,527)
3. Oceana (4,738)
4. Berrien (4,496)
5. Allegan (3,458)



NOTE: Map indicates migrant & seasonal workers & dependents.

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Doing-Business-with-MDHHS/Migrant-Affairs/MSFW_Fact_Sheet_496512_7.pdf?rev=d55874e671aa4315986e5867dca4e1b4

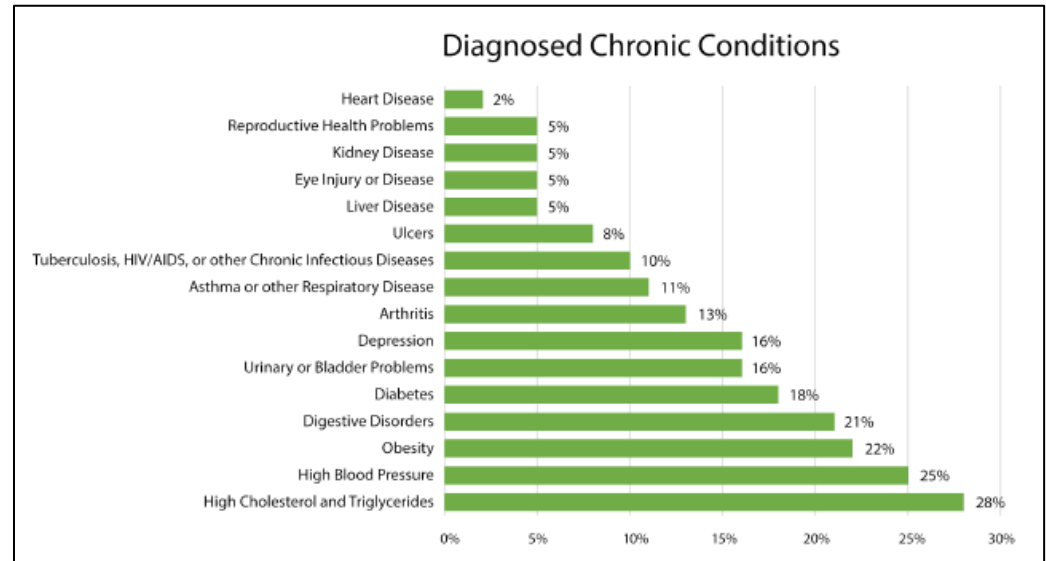
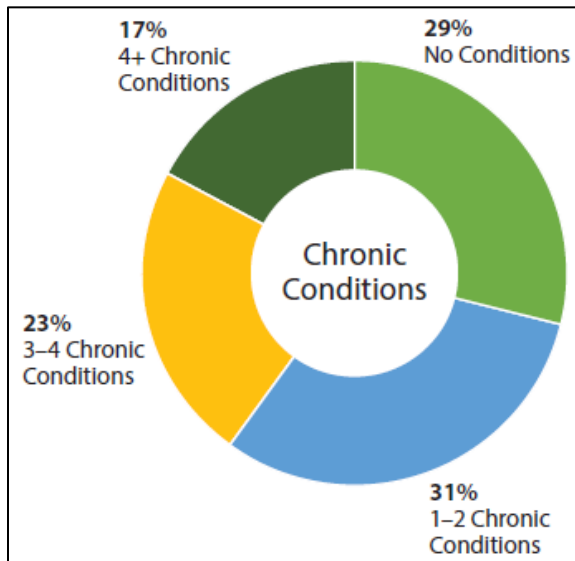
Question

What areas of the state do you represent?
Do you see farmworkers come into your clinics?



Common Chronic Conditions

Based on a survey of farmworkers in Oceana, Kent, and Van Buren Counties by the U of M Michigan Farmworker Project:



Fair Housing Access, Affordability, and Quality for Michigan Farmworkers During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond 2023, U of M Michigan Farmworker Project. https://sph.umich.edu/michigan-farmworker-project/pdf/Handal_IglesiasRios_FINAL%20report_01.15.23.pdf

Farmworker Health Statistics

Based on a 2021 Migrant Health Survey done by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health of 300 farmworkers:

- 38.2% of migrant farmworkers with chronic pain say their pain is managed well, compared to 79.4% for the general population.
- One in nine (10.8%) migrant farmworkers has diabetes and 8.0% have pre-diabetes; both of these proportions are on par with the general population.
- One in six (15.7%) migrant farmworkers has high blood pressure; of these, half (51.1%) are taking medication for it.
- Almost one-fourth (23.5%) have high blood cholesterol, and of these, 40.7% are taking medication for it.
- 40.8% of migrant farmworkers are obese and 33.1% of migrant farmworkers are overweight

Migrant Farmworker Health Survey Report 2021, Ottawa County Department of Public Health

<https://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/data/2021-Migrant-Farmworker-Health-Survey.pdf>

Farmworker Health Statistics cont.

Based on a 2021 Migrant Health Survey done by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health of 300 farmworkers:

- Two-thirds (68.9%) of migrant farmworkers have no health care coverage
 - The vast majority of those with coverage have either Medicaid (47.0%) or a plan at work or through a union (38.6%)
 - The top barrier to having coverage is lack of knowledge as to where to go to get/apply for insurance
- Among migrant farmworkers, almost one-fourth (23.3%) had to forgo a needed doctor visit in the past year due to cost;
 - Additionally, 29.6% report having to delay needed medical care in the past year
 - The top reasons cited for delay in getting care are lack of transportation, inability to get an appointment, and cost
- One in six (17.5%) Ottawa County migrant farmworkers have visited an urgent care center or emergency room (ER) in the past year.

Migrant Farmworker Health Survey Report 2021, Ottawa County Department of Public Health
<https://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/data/2021-Migrant-Farmworker-Health-Survey.pdf>

Farmworker Health Indicators

Comparison of Key Health Status Indicators compared to the 2020 General Ottawa County Adult Population

	Health Status Indicators	
	Migrant Farmworkers (2021)	General Population (2020)
General Health Fair/Poor	11.8% ●	13.2%
Poor Physical Health (14+ days)	3.9% ●	9.4%
Poor Mental Health (14+ days)	3.9% ●	15.3%
Activity Limitation (14+ days)	2.3% ●	7.0%
Obese	40.8% ●	34.5%
Overweight	33.1% ●	31.9%
Healthy Weight	25.8% ●	31.6%
Receiving Medication/Treatment for Poor Mental Health	33.3% ●	43.4%
Receiving Medication/Treatment for Anxiety	52.2% ●	50.8%
Receiving Medication/Treatment for Depression	55.6% ●	61.1%
Trying to lose weight/maintain weight (overweight)	34.4% ●	74.8%
Trying to lose weight/maintain weight (obese)	61.9% ●	86.6%
Have high blood pressure/hypertension	15.7% ●	26.4% (2014)
Have high blood cholesterol	23.5% ●	26.8% (2014)

Migrant Farmworker Health Survey Report 2021, Ottawa County Department of Public Health
<https://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/data/2021-Migrant-Farmworker-Health-Survey.pdf>

Farmworker Health Challenges

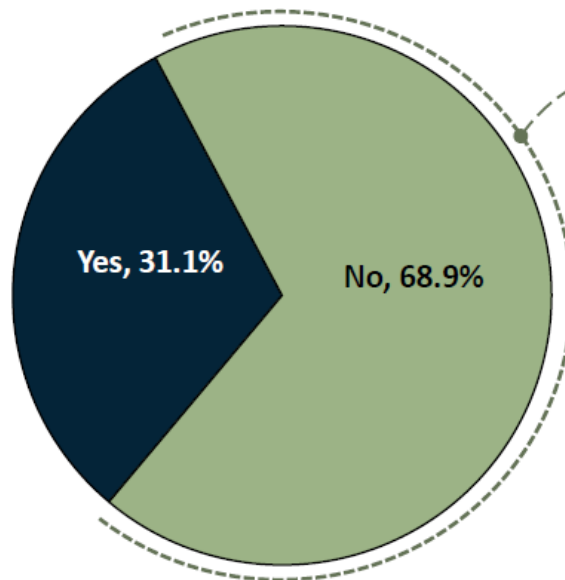
Barriers to Accessing Care and Health Challenges Farmworkers Face:

- Pesticide exposure
- Lack of access to care
- Lack of medical insurance/Cost
- Lack of transportation
- Long Work Days
- Language barrier
 - Indigenous Languages

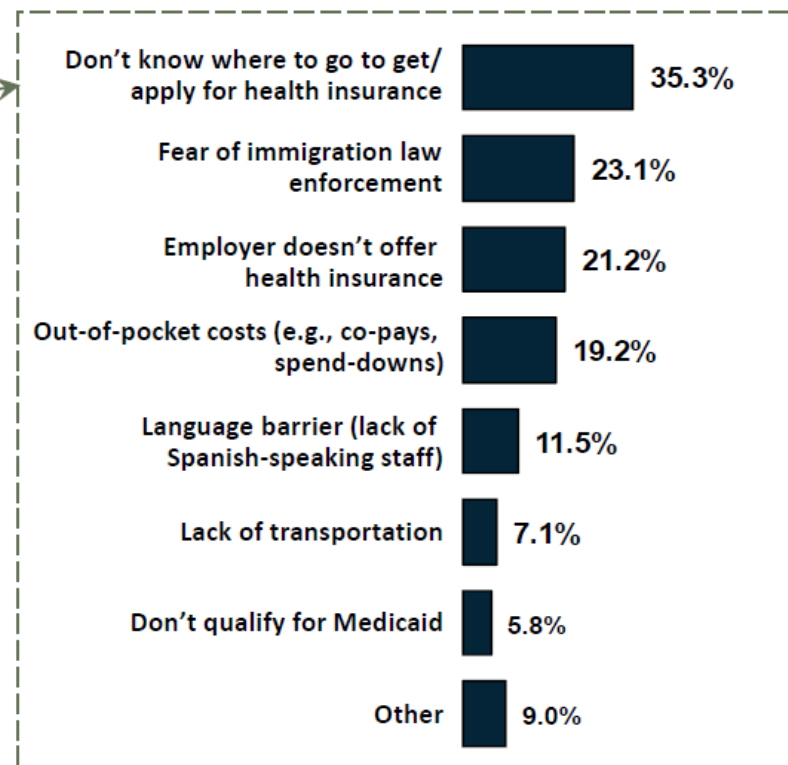


Health Care Coverage

Currently Have Health Care Coverage



Reasons for No Health Care Coverage



Emergency Services Only Medicaid Eligibility

- Eligibility requirements include proof of identity and citizenship and meet income and asset guidelines.
- Medicaid Programs vary based on age, family status, and disability status.
- Emergency Services Only Medicaid available to individuals who do not have a citizenship or eligible immigration status for Full Medicaid, such as H-2A Workers (proof of identity and citizenship requirement waived)



Expanded Health Coverage

Emergency Services Only Medicaid Coverage through May 2023 for COVID-19 healthcare includes:

- In-patient and Out-patient
- Tests, vaccinations, and prescriptions

Emergency Services Only Medicaid Coverage for Kidney Dialysis

- Outpatient Dialysis coverage for individuals with End Stage Renal Disease effective 4/1/22

Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women Expanded from 2 to 12 months Postpartum



A photograph showing several farmworkers in a strawberry field. They are wearing hats and gloves, bending over to pick strawberries. The field is filled with green strawberry plants. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.

Farmworker Mental Health

Farmworkers can experience feelings of loneliness and isolation while in Michigan and away from their families. Their mental health is important for a safe and healthy workforce.

The following are resources that can assist farmworkers with mental health needs:

- Migrant Health Center
- Community Mental Health
- Local Health Department
- Calling 988, the National Suicide Prevention Line
- Calling the DHHS Farmworker Hotline for referrals 1-833-SIAYUDA

COVID-19 Farmworker Hotline

- MDHHS now has a COVID-19 vaccine information hotline specifically for farmworkers, including agriculture, food processing, dairy production, and nursery/greenhouse
- Toll-free 1-833-SIAYUDA or 1-833-742-9832
- The hotline will be used to answer questions about vaccines and connect them with resources and where to get vaccinated. It will also be used for referrals to local DHHS Migrant Program staff for help applying for public benefits, transportation and interpretation needs



Innovation Brought on by the Pandemic

- Developed new outreach techniques and partnerships.
- Partnerships were formed with Health Departments, FQHCs and other health entities.
- Expanded Medical coverage for those affected by COVID-19.
- Heightened emphasis on health, including mental health services.
- Creation of informational material and resources to help keep farmworkers informed.

COVID-19 Farmworker Resources

KN95 and Cloth Masks

COVID-19 Onsite Testing/Test Kits

- Testing at Welcome Centers

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Partnership with MPCA and FQHC
Migrant Health Centers

Student Assistants



COVID-19 General Resources in English and Spanish

Where to locate:

- Protect Michigan Commission

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_5460_105209_105479---,00.html

- State's Coronavirus site under Alternate Languages

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98541_98542---,00.html

- CDC

<https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- For additional information:

- www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus
- www.Michigan.gov/COVIDTest
- www.Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine
- COVID-19 Hotline 888-535-6136
- Email COVID19@michigan.gov

Question

What health conditions do you see farmworkers face? What strategies have you used to engage farmworkers in your area?



MDHHS Migrant Program Staff

47 DHHS Migrant Program staff housed in 11 counties and providing outreach & services to MSFWs in 48 counties

Allegan DHHS, Allegan

Berrien DHHS, Benton Harbor

Grand Traverse DHHS, Traverse City

Ingham DHHS, Lansing

Kent DHHS, Grand Rapids

Lapeer DHHS, Lapeer

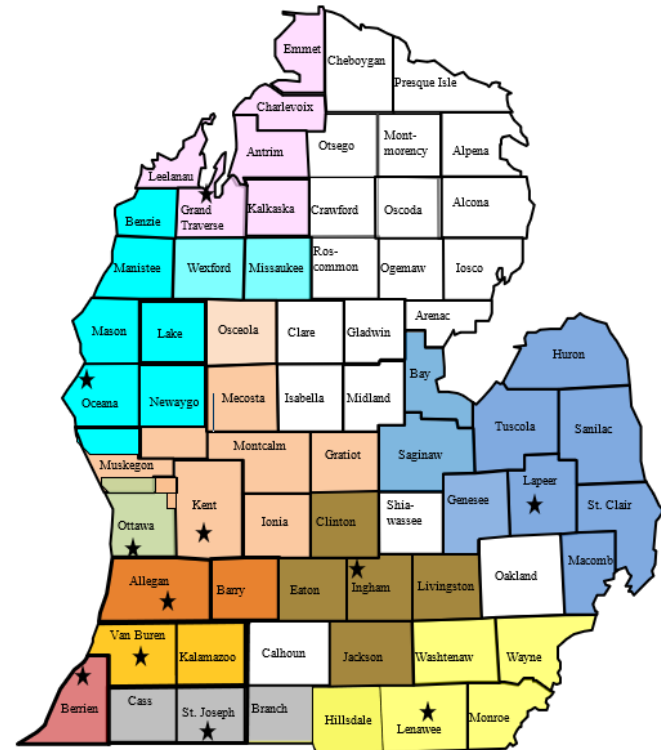
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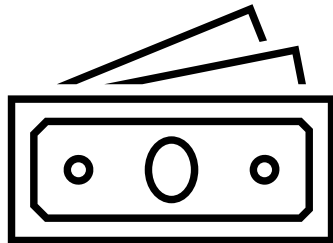
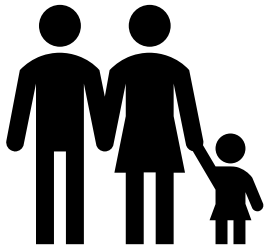
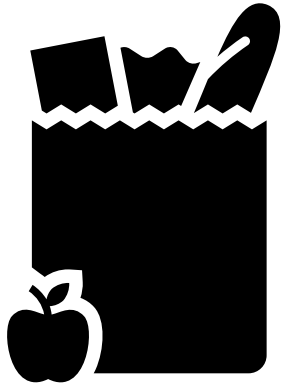
Oceana DHHS, Hart

Ottawa DHHS, Holland

St. Joseph DHHS, Centreville

Van Buren DHHS, Hartford





MDHHS Assistance Programs

- Food Assistance
- Medical Assistance (Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, Emergency Services Only)
- Child Development and Care Assistance
- Cash Assistance
- State Emergency Relief

How to Apply

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers are encouraged to get assistance from a DHHS Migrant Program Specialist (MPS) when applying for public benefits to ensure proper assignment.

Other ways to apply for DHHS services:

- Online via MIBridges www.Michigan.gov/MIBridges
- In-person at a Local DHHS Office
- Paper Applications – ensure to mark Migrant or Seasonal Farmworker
- Home Calls
- Over the Phone:
 - Medicaid 855-789-5610, Other Programs 800-552-4483



Outreach

DHHS Migrant Program Specialists perform 40% of their time doing outreach during peak season March-October, doing the following activities:

Transportation and Interpretation

Migrant Resource Councils

Camp/Home Visits

Grower Visits

Service Provider Networking





Why is outreach important?

Outreach is the single most important way to connect with farmworkers.

Quality outreach equals successful outcomes for farmworkers and their families.

Having outreach specialists that are bilingual and outreach material in Spanish is key in ensuring information is delivered.

Ways to Connect

- Local DHHS Migrant Program Staff
 - Can assist with transportation and interpretation for farmworkers
- Joint outreach with a migrant service provider
- Michigan Migrant Resource Councils to connect with various service providers for farmworkers



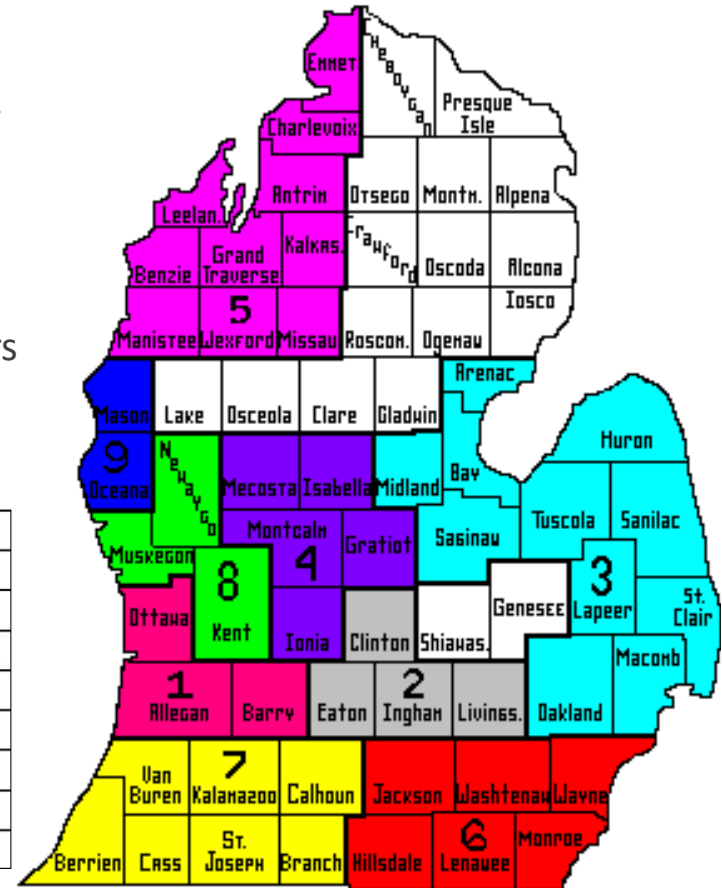
Michigan Migrant Resource Councils

Network of 9 Regional Migrant Resource Councils throughout the state, spanning 51 counties.

Monthly meetings held during the peak season with the purpose of:

- Exchanging information on services to farmworkers
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying unmet needs of farmworkers and their families
- Establish referral networks
- Coordinate service delivery

1	Allegan/Ottawa/Barry MRC
2	Capital Area MRC
3	Great Lakes MRC
4	Mid-Michigan MRC
5	Northwest Michigan MRC
6	Southeastern Michigan MRC
7	Southwestern Michigan MRC
8	Sparta Area MRC
9	West Michigan MRC



[Migrant Resource Councils \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Outreach Opportunities



Michigan Migrant Child Task Force (MCTF)

- Four Outreach Events per year around the state
- Distribute gift bags, books, shirts, toys, diapers/wipes

MCTF Labor Camp Visits	
Event Date and County	Event Leader
June 28, 2023 – Berrien	Audra Fuentes FuentesA@michigan.gov
July 25, 2023 – Oceana/Mason	Mara Luevano LuevanoM@michigan.gov
August 9, 2023 – Ottawa	Cynthia Derby DerbyC@michigan.gov
September 13, 2023 – Grand Traverse/Leelanau	Mariza Gamez-Garcia GamezGarciaM@michigan.gov



Michigan Migrant Child Task Force

Question

How can migrant service providers help you reach potential farmworkers in your area?



Thank you!

Questions or Comments?

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