

## Expanding High Quality Services for Migrant Farmworker Children and Families in Michigan



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## Farmworkers in Michigan

•90,000 Farmworkers in MI  
•Seventh largest farmworker population in the U.S.

In 2006: 4,088 Farmworker households received public benefits in Michigan.

Food Assistance, Day Care, Medicaid, State Emergency Relief.

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## Indigenous Farmworkers

Native Guatemalan Indians

Native Mexican Indians

Trafficking

Tribal dialects

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## Diversity of Farmworkers

- Migrant Farmworkers
- Seasonal Farmworkers
- Settled-Out Farmworkers
- Transnational Farmworkers




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## The Office of Migrant Affairs

Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS)



**The Mission:**  
To deliver public benefits, provide assistance, and coordinate statewide services that meet the economic and cultural needs of marginalized migrant & seasonal farmworkers.

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## Office of Migrant Affairs

Program Description

- The DHS Office of Migrant Affairs is designated as the key state entity in the assessment, development, and coordination of services to Michigan's estimated 90,000 farmworkers and their families.

Approximately 72 seasonal and full-time bilingual DHS employees deliver services in 24 counties.

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## Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC)

- Staffed by the Office of Migrant Affairs
- Established in 1970
- Serves as a clearinghouse for the exchange of views, problems and possible solutions to migrant and seasonal farmwork and related services

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## Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC)

### The IMSC is charged with:

- Facilitating communication among all agencies serving Migrants
- Resolving problems associated with the delivery of services to Migrants
- Developing a state strategy for Migrant programs
- Recommending Migrant policy changes to the Governor's Office

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## IMSC Membership

- Representatives of all agencies and programs providing services to Migrants
- Currently consists of 25 member organizations
- Representatives from the grower community and farmworkers advocates



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## IMSC Membership

- Office of Migrant Affairs,DHS
- Social Security Administration
- Michigan Primary Care Association
- MSU Department of Agricultural Economics
- MSU CAMP/HEP
- MSU Julian Samora Research Institute
- WIC
- Cristo Rey Community Center
- Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division
- Department of Agriculture, Migrant Labor Housing
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Civil Rights
- Migrant Education
- Migrant Health Promotion
- Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project
- Telamon Corporation, National Farmworkers Job Program
- Telamon Corporation, Migrant Head Start
- Department of Labor and Economic Growth
- MIOSHA
- United States Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division
- United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Rural Development
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs
- Internal Revenue Service
- Farmworker Legal Services

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## IMSC Taskforces

- Data Taskforce
- Migrant Housing Taskforce
- Migrant Child Taskforce



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## Michigan IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce Participants

- State Head Start Collaboration Office
- Jackson Public Schools
- Michigan Head Start Association
- ML4C
- Office of Migrant Affairs, DHS
- Migrant Education
- Michigan Child Care Licensing
- Bureau of Community Action Agencies
- University of Michigan Cooperative Extension Program
- Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)
- Early Childhood Department, Michigan
- Department of Education
- Michigan Child Care Subsidy Program, DHS
- Michigan State University
- National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office
- Migrant Head Start
- Farmworker Legal Services
- Department of Community Health

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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce

**The Vision:** To improve the future of Migrant children in Michigan and the education of their caregivers.

**The Mission:** To collaborate, educate, & advocate for policy and programs that ensure a bright future for Migrant children.



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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce



**Strategic Plan Priorities:**

- Caregiver Education & Training
- Data & Research
- Access to Community Services  
Health, Housing, Transportation,  
Policy Alternatives
- Collaboration



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## Priority Area: Caregiver Education & Training

**Overall Goal:** Increase the supply of trained caregivers who care for the children of Migrant farmworkers (regulated, Aides and Relatives under the radar screen, etc.).

**Objectives:**

1. Identify and find the caregivers.
2. Identify and design appropriate training options.
3. Implement.
4. Support Policy Improvements by State agencies.
5. Reduce Turnover for individuals providing direct care.



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**Priority Area:  
Data & Research**

**Overall Goal:** Obtain an accurate and current profile of Migrant children in Michigan, their families, and their caregivers.

**Objectives:**

1. Coordination with IMSC Data Taskforce.
2. Commission research on Migrant children, families & providers in Michigan.
3. Assure sustainability of long-term data collection and reporting.
4. Secure appropriate “translation” and analysis of data.

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**Priority Area:  
Access to Community Resources**

**Overall Goal:** Ensure that Migrant children and families have equal access to community services and resources.

**Objectives:**

1. Expand our knowledge of all services for Migrant children and families.
2. Develop a “report card” on existing services for Migrant children and families in Michigan.
3. Develop concrete proposals for the top priority policy areas.
4. Review & evaluate Action Plan Progress.

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**Priority Area:  
Collaboration**

**Overall Goal:** Collaborate to improve services for Migrant children and their families.

**Objectives:**

1. Ensure collaboration between Migrant Education and Migrant Head Start in Michigan.
2. Promote collaboration with ECIC to ensure that Migrant children’s needs are addressed by the infrastructure of ECIC.
3. Expand representation on state-level taskforces.

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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce

### 2003

- Workgroup developed between Migrant Affairs, Migrant Ed, & Migrant Head Start in the Summer of 2003 in response to a constituent complaint to the Governor's Office.
- Community outreach & focus group discussions initiated by the Directors of the three programs.
- Focus on Day Care Aide training issues and collaboration across program lines.



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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce



### 2004

- Regional meetings & outreach taking place with DHS, Migrant Ed, & Migrant Head Start staff
- Planning for Collaborative Pilot Projects initiated by Migrant Head Start & Migrant Ed
- Stronger collaboration begins with our CDC Administrator, Head Start State Collaboration Office, MI's 4C Association, etc.
- Connection established with Brenda Coakley, National Collaboration Coordinator, Migrant Head Start. Michigan site visit occurs
- Taskforce formally established under the IMSC in Dec. 2004

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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce



### 2005

- Presentation to Federal Interagency Committee in Feb. 2005
- Susan Rohrbough of NCCIC begins facilitation of Strategic Planning process for the Taskforce in Jan./Feb. 2005
- Outreach to Migrant families, caregivers, & growers continues with visitors from Migrant Head Start Bureau
- Migrant Head Start & Migrant Ed collaborative pilot projects initiated in 3 sites (Manchester, Shelby, & Kent City)
- Presentation given at NAEYC Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in December

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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce

### 2006

- Taskforce presents at National Hispanic Institute, Denver, CO
- \$10,000 grant awarded to Taskforce through HSSCO for advancement of Strategic Plan
- Funding continued for 4C Special Projects to provide training for Migrant Day Care Aides
- Migrant Head Start and Migrant Ed Collaborative Projects take place at 3 sites (South Haven, Bangor, & Suttons Bay)
- MSU-E conducts Migrant Parent & Provider Focus Group meetings with the Taskforce
- The Taskforce coordinates week-long outreach activities to Migrant camps for public policy officials
- Article highlighting work of the Taskforce published by the MI Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics



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## IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce

### 2007

- \$5,000 grant awarded to Taskforce by HSSCO for implementation of Strategic Plan
- Taskforce participation at National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Conference, Washington, DC
- Outreach for Public Policy Officials planned for May and August of 2007
- Planned update of Taskforce Strategic Plan with Susan Rohrbough, NCCIC in Summer of 2007
- Continued Migrant Head Start & Migrant Ed Collaboration at 4 sites (Bangor, South Haven, Suttons Bay, & Manchester)
- Identification of Migrant parent candidates for leadership development training & future participation in relevant statewide committees



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## Outcomes of Taskforce Collaboration & Coordination

- Improved cross-referrals between Migrant Head Start and Migrant Ed
- Expanded programming and use of facilities through Migrant Head Start & Migrant Ed collaborative projects
- Improved joint recruitment and outreach across agencies
- Successful coordination of outreach activities for public policy officials to improve dialogue with Migrant parents and providers
- Continued funding for culturally & linguistically appropriate training for Migrant Day Care Aides through Michigan's 4C Association
- Better utilization and leveraging of funding
- National level collaboration with the 2 Federal TA Systems: the Office of Head Start (Migrant) and the Child Care Bureau (NCCIC)

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**IMSC Migrant Child Taskforce  
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