

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program

Serving Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

WDB areas have a responsibility under the Wagner-Peyser Act regulations to provide employment services, benefits, and protections to migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) on a basis that is qualitatively equivalent and quantitatively proportionate to services provided to non-MSFWs.

Staff at all One-Stop Centers must provide MSFWs a list of available career and supportive services in their native language. In addition to providing the list of career services, staff at One-Stop Centers must offer MSFWs the full range of career and supportive services, benefits and protections, and job and training referral services as are provided to non-MSFWs. The services include the provision of:

- labor exchange services, including job search and placement assistance;
- career counseling and individual counseling;
- information on in-demand industry sectors and occupations;
- information on nontraditional employment;
- referrals to and coordination of activities with other programs and services; and
- workforce and labor market employment statistics information.

Identifying and Recording MSFWs in AOSOS

Seasonal farmworker means an individual who is employed, or was employed in the past 12 months, in farm work of a seasonal or other temporary nature and is not required to be absent overnight from his/her permanent place of residence. A Migrant Farm Worker is a seasonal farm worker who has to travel to do the farm work and is unable to return to his or her permanent residence within the same day.

For auditing purposes, the farm employment must be listed in the work history.

Significant Areas of MSFW Activity

Although all WDB areas have a responsibility to serve MSFWs, Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Somerset have been designated as Significant Areas of MSFW Activity. NJDOL has outreach workers in each of those areas whose job is to promote One-Stop services to farmworkers where they work, gather, and quarter.

H2-A Job Orders

Farmers applying for foreign labor are required to post job openings with the local One-Stop Career Center in order to test the local labor market for qualified and interested candidates. One-Stop staff should match the job openings to registered jobseekers and refer the jobseekers to the employer. Referrals against the job order should be documented in AOSOS.

Pathstone (National Farmworkers Jobs Program)

Pathstone provides career services, training services, housing assistance services, youth services, and related assistance services to low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs), including MSFW youth, and their dependents. Participants must have performed labor for wages in occupations and industries within agricultural production and agricultural services for 12 consecutive months out of the past 24 months. Pathstone's main statewide office for serving MSFWs is at 78 W. Landis Avenue in Vineland ((856) 696-1000).