

Projects for Migratory Agricultural Workers and Seasonal Farm Workers with Disabilities (CFDA No. 84.128G)

I. Legislation

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1993, P.L. 93-112, Title III, Part B, Section 312, as amended by P.L. 102-569 and P.L. 103-73 (29 U.S.C. 777b) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1977	\$530,000	1988	\$1,100,000
1980	1,530,000	1989	1,100,000
1981	1,325,000	1990	1,086,000
1982	951,000	1991	1,171,000
1983	951,000	1992	1,171,000
1984	950,000	1993	1,171,000
1985	950,000	1994	1,171,000
1986	957,000	1995	1,421,000
1987	1,058,000	1996	1,421,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The program's purpose is to increase employment opportunities for migratory agricultural workers or seasonal farm workers with disabilities by providing services to them and to members of their families who are with them (whether the family members have disabilities or not).

Objective 1: Promote employment opportunities for migratory agricultural workers or seasonal farm workers who have disabilities.

The program rehabilitates more than 400 people each year.

Objective 2: Increase services to migrant and seasonal farm workers with disabilities.

There are at least 280,000 migratory agricultural workers and seasonal farm workers with disabilities in the labor force and another 60,000 dependents of those workers. This program serves more than 2,500 annually.

Objective 3: Promote outreach activities to this population.

Research shows that the migrant population is more likely to engage in rehabilitation services that are provided in noninstitutional settings in their native tongue.

Objective 4: Provide for the coordination of related services between funded grantees and other state VR programs.

With the passage of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, grants may be awarded to state agencies or to nonprofit agencies that collaborate with other state agencies in the administration of related migrant services.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

In FY 1995, 10 projects--4 of them new projects--operated in states that have high concentrations of migrant and seasonal farm workers. In FY 1996, the Department funded 9 projects, of which 3 were new. Services are typically concentrated in areas within each state.

Applicants must give satisfactory assurance of appropriate cooperation with other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations that have special skills and experience in the provision of services to migratory agricultural workers, seasonal farm workers, or their families, including programs under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Section 311 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Migrant Health Act, and the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act of 1963.

Strategic Initiatives

Projects are administered by a state agency designated pursuant to a state plan approved under Section 101 of the Rehabilitation Act, by a nonprofit agency working in collaboration with a state agency, or by a local agency participating in the administration of such a plan. Grants pay up to 90 percent of the cost of projects. Since FY 1995, grant awards have been increased from three- to five-year periods.

Projects are monitored quarterly by a regional office, which reviews the grantees' progress toward achieving their stated goals and objectives and provides technical assistance as needed. As part of the Administration's Reinventing Government Initiative, the Department has eliminated the continuation application process. Instead of applying for a noncompeting continuation, all applicants for multiyear projects now provide detailed budget information for the total project period. They then submit an annual performance report on program outcomes and progress in achieving project goals and objectives.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Indicators are under development.

IV. Planned Studies

The program plans to conduct specific studies in areas such as the number of people requesting services and the number actually served, unemployment rate of persons requesting services, placement rate for those served by the program, percentage of state VR agencies reporting outreach activities to

clients under this program, and coordination activities between related programs. Results of these studies are expected in FY 1999.

V. Sources of Information

1. Evaluation of the Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers' Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects (E.H. White and Company, San Francisco, CA, September 1987).
2. Evaluation of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Provided to Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers: Final Report (Pelavin Research Institute, Washington, DC, June 1995).
3. Program files.
4. Teleconferencing monitoring.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

Program Operation: Mary Winkler-Chambers, (202) 205-8435

Program Studies: Sarah Abernathy, (202) 401-3600