

Where There is a Till, There is a Way

Educating Louisiana Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers

The University of Louisiana, Monroe (ULM) High School Equivalency (HEP) program has been providing educational services to migrant and seasonal farm workers since the fall of 2009 serving a total of 965 participants in Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita and Union Parishes. Through its subgrantee, the Center for Adult Development at the Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC), ULM HEP has had a total of 708 participants receive a high school equivalency diploma with 391 participants upgrading their employment or entering post-secondary education.

ULM HEP is writing to expand its current services to focus on in-demand industry and occupational positions, thereby giving Louisiana migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families credentials certifying work readiness, in addition to a high school equivalency diploma. The goal of the proposed program is to foster flexible and affordable paths for migrant and seasonal farm workers and members of their immediate family who live or work in Northcentral Louisiana to increase their knowledge, skills and credentialing to compete for in-demand industry sector and occupational positions. The ULM HEP proposes to serve 75 qualified participants with its extensive network of braided services of adult education, English-as-a-second language, industry-based certification classes, wrap-around services, and childcare, thereby ensuring the success of participants. ULM HEP proposes to implement a controlled, random trial exploring the effects of intensive coaching on HEP participants.