



Improving the health status of Maine's seasonal workers and their families by providing culturally appropriate care and services.

December 20, 2022

Megan Patterson
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Ms. Patterson,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) with a request for support from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control for a continued effort to deliver EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) education to Maine's farmworkers during the 2023 harvest season.

Throughout the 2022 season, the Maine Mobile Health Program worked to provide the Worker Protection Standard (PST) training to farmworkers across the state. The program recruited a new trainer who was bilingual with the capacity to speak in Spanish and English. One highlight from the season included offering trainings to a crew of blueberry rakers that spoke Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese, using the interpretation line to support all their language needs. We were also able to build a connection between WPS training and our mobile health services at one of the larger farms. The challenging labor market made it difficult for us to hire a trainer early in the season. We also experienced a couple of last-minute cancelations from farms that limited the number of workers we could support. While our trainer was able to utilize COVID-19 safety precautions, there continued to be barriers to offering more trainings because of the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, our PST trainer was able to offer training on the WPS to 100 farmworkers across Maine in addition to curricula from the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) on occupational safety. The table included here breaks down, by education topic, important outcomes in 2022 completed by our trainer.

FWs trained in Worker Protection Standard	100
Heat Stress Trainings	20



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The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs awarded \$1,000 to MMHP in support of on-going WPS training in 2023. MMHP plans to use these funds to support the staff time for multilingual WPS and occupational health trainings to farmworkers across the state. We request from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control a contribution of \$6,432 which we would leverage with the funds from AFOP. The funding from the Board of Pesticides Control will be used to fund the staff person who provides WPS trainings; including both the hourly wage and the travel and lodging required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners, and the overhead of managing the grant and project. We request that the funding be made directly to MMHP.

We thank the Board for its past support and for considering this current proposal. To connect with us about this request or our activities, please feel free to contact Hannah Miller (hmill@mainemobile.org, 207-441-1633).

All the best,

Hannah A. Miller

Hannah Miller
Director of Outreach
Maine Mobile Health Program