



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

December 13, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

JENNIE PITTMAN
Deputy Director
Administrative Services

MARISSA MACH
Deputy Director
Adult & Family Services

DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER
Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

ELAINE MARTINEZ
Deputy Director
Community Services

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Human Services Agency to (a) Submit a Grant Application to the State of California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Community Services and Development for a Farmworker Resource Center Grant in the Amount of \$833,000, (b) Accept Funding and Sign Any Related Agreements, Subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel Review and Approval, and (c) Provide Matching Funds in the Amount of \$208,250, Through Existing In-Kind Services.

Recommendations:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Human Services Agency (HSA) to (a) submit a grant application to the State of California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) for a Farmworker Resource Center grant in the amount of \$833,000, (b) accept funding and sign any related agreements, if awarded, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval, and (c) provide matching funds in the amount of \$208,250.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	State, County
Funding Match Required:	Yes, 25%
Impact on other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue:		
Direct	\$249,900	\$583,100
Total Revenue	\$249,900	\$583,100

Costs:

Direct	\$312,375	\$728,875
Indirect	Minimal	\$Minimal
Total Costs	\$312,375	\$728,875
Net County Cost	\$62,475	\$145,775

There is no additional net county cost associated with this grant opportunity. The 25% matching funds will be provided through existing in-kind services with employees already working on the Farmworker Resource Program so there will be no additional labor costs. Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in HSA's FY 2022-2023 Adopted Budget.

FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget for HSA Program Operations – BU 3410				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$206,984,752	\$211,419,641	\$211,419,641	\$0
Revenue	\$178,000,155	\$178,000,155	\$178,000,155	\$0
Net Cost	\$28,984,597	\$33,419,486	\$33,419,486	\$0

Discussion

As a fundamental workforce in the California agricultural sector, farmworkers often face unique challenges related to housing, employment, public health and other basic needs. On September 22, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 941, introduced by Assemblymember Steve Bennett and Senator Monique Limón, into law, establishing the Farmworker Resource Center Grant Program. AB 941 provides California counties the opportunity to apply for funding to help create farmworker resource centers to assist farmworkers in navigating public agencies, receiving information regarding wage and hour, health and safety laws, resolving workplace disputes, and pursuing other legal rights. The 2021-2022 State Budget appropriated \$3 million to fund the program. On November 15, 2022, CSD issued a Notice of Funding Availability for the Farmworker Resource Center Grant Program, a 15-month program that will support the establishment or expansion of Farmworker Resource Centers to provide access to services and programs designed to address the needs of farmworkers and their families. Applications will be due to CSD on December 21, 2022, and CSD intends to make three awards of \$833,000 each.

The County of Ventura's Farmworker Resource Program (FRP) was established in 2019 and focuses on building trust and relationships within the agricultural community, assisting farmworkers to understand the existing labor laws that protect them, seeking resolutions to workplace issues, providing resources and information, assisting farmworkers in navigating public agencies, promoting and enhancing the agricultural industry in Ventura County, and attracting farmworkers to Ventura County as a first-choice destination to work in agriculture.

Since inception, FRP has connected and provided support to over 6,000 farmworkers and their families regarding issues including wage and hour concerns, housing, financial assistance, harassment, safety and health, and many more. Services are provided in a

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multitude of languages which have been identified to be most prominent in our region, including Spanish, Mixteco, Zapoteco, Purepecha and English. Services are often provided in the evening, on weekends, on-site at various ranches, or at community sites, including the Consulate of Mexico, so that they are convenient for farmworkers.

The FRP team was invited to participate in a State workgroup that leveraged the learnings of our program as a model for identifying the characteristics of and recommended practices for a successful Farmworker Resource Center. If awarded funding, FRP will expand program services, add resources to provide more accessibility and mobile services, and enhance outreach initiatives to increase visibility of the center to include navigation to additional services that address the needs and unique challenges faced by farmworkers and their families. Because the expansion details are still being designed, the final grant proposal will be submitted to the County Executive Office for review prior to submission to CSD on December 21, 2022.

We recommend that your Board adopt a resolution authorizing HSA to (a) submit a grant application to CSD for a Farmworker Resource Center grant in the amount of \$833,000, (b) accept funding and sign any related agreements, if awarded, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval, and (c) provide matching funds in the amount of \$208,250.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or Talia Barrera, Farmworker Resource Program Manager, at 805-477-5344.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa Livingston".

Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Resolution for Farmworker Resource Center Grant Program