

## **National Farmworker Jobs Program Update November 2020**

The WIOA Interagency Technical Assistance (TA) Team offers this update regarding the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) federal grantee in Illinois and information about Program Year (PY) 2020 MOU and budget commitments and PY 2021 MOU and budget negotiations.

### **Background**

The new federal grantee for the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) in Illinois is United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS). Retroactive to July 1, 2020, UMOS replaced the Illinois Migrant Council (IMC) as the Federal grantee for the NFJP for the State of Illinois. The transition occurred on October 1, 2020.

UMOS is in the process of hiring supervisors and case managers to make NFJP services available to farmworkers throughout Illinois.

UMOS intends to make NFJP services available through all Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIAs) in Illinois and be a party to the MOU in all LWIAs.

### **PY 2020 MOUs**

During this transition period, UMOS has begun to reach out to local workforce areas that have a higher concentration of farmworkers.

UMOS' immediate priority during this transition period is to negotiate MOU and budget amendments to PY 2020 MOUs in LWIAs 13, 17 and 25. UMOS has already established a physical office in these areas. UMOS is also in conversations with LWIA 15.

UMOS' longer-term priority is to initiate contact with all LWIAs as much as possible this winter to introduce UMOS, share information about NFJP services, and discuss being a party to the MOU with FTE commitments and contributions toward shared costs going forward. UMOS plans to negotiate non-cash contributions unless it is physically present and co-located in the center.

For PY 2020 MOUs, MOU financial obligations incurred by the Illinois Migrant Council through September 30, 2020 should be sought from Illinois Migrant Council.

For PY 2020 MOUs, any financial obligations for NFJP starting on October 1 through June 30, 2021 should be subject to an MOU and budget amendment with UMOS as the required program partner.

The MOU negotiator on behalf of UMOS follows:

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The MOU signatory for UMOS will be:

Kaye Hartmann  
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2701 S. Chase Avenue  
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### **PY 2021 MOU Negotiations**

UMOS plans to participate in MOU and budget negotiations in all local workforce areas starting in PY 2021, understanding it may be a gradual process of integrating into the local workforce systems and providing services.

Shirley Aviles will be the primary contact for the negotiation period for PY 2021. As UMOS hires more staff, UMOS may introduce other MOU negotiators to the local areas.

### **Additional Resources**

Attached is a PowerPoint presentation explaining UMOS and the NFJP as a required program partner under WIOA.

Please contact the WIOA Interagency Technical Assistance Team with any questions about this communication. Email: [wioaplans-mous@illinoisworknet.com](mailto:wioaplans-mous@illinoisworknet.com)