The Julian Samora Research Institute
The Midwest's Premier Latino Research Center

Farmworkers in Michigan*

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RESEARCH REPORT NO. 59

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ABSTRACT

This report provides an overview of the occupational lives of migrant and seasonal farmworkers to promote awareness of the many challenges they face on Michigan's farms and across the nation. In Michigan, which boasts a $101 billion agricultural industry, the numbers of farmworkers and their household members are approximately 94,000, with nearly 6,500 guest workers brought to do labor-intensive work. In Michigan, and across the nation, these workers are in demand today even as there are widespread anti-immigrant sentiments. These sentiments have contributed to increased enforcement of immigration laws, producing labor shortages in agriculture and instability in the labor force, which has resulted in increased recruitment of H-2A workers. Agricultural work ranks among the most dangerous occupations in the nation. Yet, migrant and seasonal farmworkers seldom receive adequate safety training to protect themselves while in the fields. As a result, many fall victim to preventable health problems like skin rashes and musculoskeletal diseases. Poverty and the lack of livable wages are also major issues for these workers, many of whom are paid piece rates that make it difficult for some to earn the minimum wage rate. Some are required to pay for on-site housing provided by their employers. These houses are sometimes substandard and overcrowded, which contributes to physical and mental health strains. The children of migrant farmworkers often have their schooling disrupted, and some may work in the fields despite laws regulating child labor where they may be exposed to pesticides which, like poverty, diminishes their opportunities for healthy development.

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Introduction

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers have played a key role in the food systems of the United States for over a century. With the rise of urbanization during industrialization and, almost simultaneously, with the triumph of commercial farming over subsistence farming, U.S. farms have increasingly relied on migrant and seasonal workers as the number of traditional farmers declined. With the emergence of burgeoning metropolises, it soon became imperative that farmers rely increasingly on foreign workers. The increased labor demands associated with mass production industries in goods and services led to the migration of people from rural communities to growing urban centers. As Americans abandoned agricultural and rural lifestyles, Congress sought to meet the labor shortages in the agricultural sector by relaxing entry for Mexican nationals and, more recently, for workers from other countries. Since the early 1900's, domestic and foreign workers have migrated across states and immigrated from Mexico to work the nation's fields with the hopes of providing better economic opportunities for their families, regardless whether they live within the U.S. or abroad.

The passage of the Immigration Act of 1917 resulted in the first formal labor agreement between the United States and Mexico. The Mexican Farm Labor Agreement followed in 1942 which established the Bracero Program, a 22-yearlong guest worker program and a predecessor to the current H-2A, Agricultural Temporary Guest Worker Program, which allows growers to bring in foreign workers on temporary visas. These labor programs were introduced by design and necessity. With the millions of Americans serving in both world wars, America's industries faced severe labor shortages that threatened to cripple the nation's economy. The Immigration Act of 1917, along with the Mexican Revolution, prompted a mass influx of people from south of the U.S. border seeking refuge in this country. While many went to work on American farms, others with the economic means relocated to cities seeking employment; some opened businesses.

The Bracero Program recruited Mexican workers with the assurance that their basic human rights would be protected. Safeguards were put in place that included "free sanitary housing, medical treatment, bathing facilities, transportation, wages equal to those of American farmworkers, and a contract written in Spanish" (Bracero Project, n.d., slide 12). However, these protections were not always ensured and braceros engaged in labor strikes, especially in Idaho, during the war years to protest wage issues, including dual-wage systems in which White Americans were paid higher wages for performing the same type of work. States like Arkansas and Texas were so notorious for their poor treatment of Braceros that Mexico placed them "off limits" when issuing contracts for workers.

For over 100 years, domestic and foreign workers, mainly Latinos, have found seasonal work in the various divisions of agricultural labor; planting, weeding, harvesting, and packing produce. Through this dependence on cheap but fairly reliable labor force, the U.S. saw an increase in the number of workers coming into the U.S., with government officials often turning a blind eye to those who were undocumented. They would then deport and/or repatriate these workers when public sentiment turned against them, setting in motion the love-hate relationship this nation has with foreign-born workers, namely Mexicans and Central Americans. Nevertheless, these workers have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to the food systems that feed Americans. At times, however, such as the contemporary period, they have been chastised by the public and pursued, detained, and deported by immigration enforcement officials despite their hard work and contributions to the food systems. Today, nearly three-

quarters of a century later, a mix of domestic, undocumented immigrants, and guest workers make up the nation's migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

This report will highlight the role and experiences of farmworkers in Michigan's extensive agricultural industry. Since most people are unfamiliar with the plight of farmworkers, it is important to highlight their value, contributions, and the challenges they face on a daily basis. The report will focus on several topics, including demographics, working conditions, food insecurities, vulnerable children, and programs that serve farmworkers. It concludes with a discussion of the ongoing issues facing farmworkers in Michigan. Although, the main focus of the paper will be farmworkers in Michigan, a national perspective on farmworkers is also provided as the key issues involve both state and national concerns. At a broader level, this report aims to bring attention to the plight of Michigan's farmworkers and highlight their importance to Michigan's food systems.

According to the Michigan Agricultural Council, agricultural production typically boosts the state's economy by more than $101 billion each year (Michigan Agricultural Council, 2015). In fact, in 2015, Michigan was listed as the leading state in the production of 19 different crops (United States Department of Agriculture, 2015). The number of jobs this sector provides to the state is equally important. According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the total jobs resulting from this sector as a whole are 923,000, which accounts for 22 percent of the state's employment. To put all of this into perspective, every dollar generated from this sector of the economy generates another $2.93 in economic activity, contributing to Michigan's total agricultural exports of $2.8 billion and having a local impact of an additional $8.2 billion. (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2017).

Farmworker Demographics

Despite their many economic contributions to the national and state economies, the farm labor force is invisible to most Americans except through the anti-immigrant lens that prevails today. In this context, it is important to examine the full scope of the barriers they face and why it is difficult to create positive change within their communities. In the past, mainly prior to the 1980s, migrant workers consisted of families who traveled from Texas and Florida to different parts of the country to work on the nation's farms. More recently, to meet labor shortages caused by the anti-immigrant climate and increased enforcement activities, the industry has begun shifting to foreign workers brought here temporarily under the H-2A guest worker program to meet labor demands.

According to the National Center for Farmworker Health, there are an estimated three million or more migrant and seasonal farmworkers across the nation.[1] Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey 2013-2014, which collected data from 4,235 crop farmworkers, shows that 65 percent were born in Mexico, 27 percent were U.S. born, 31 percent were U.S. citizens, 21 percent were legal permanent citizens, 72 percent were males, 63 percent were married, and 57 percent had children. In addition, 53 percent had work authorization, and

[1] To better understand and properly address the categorical differences that exist among farmworkers and the impact they make on the national and local economies, it is important to properly differentiate between migrant and seasonal workers. In general, seasonal farmworkers are individuals who temporarily work in agriculture without having to leave their residence. Migrant farmworkers, on the other hand, travel a greater distance to farm sites and cannot return on a daily basis to their permanent residences. During harvest seasons, both migrant and seasonal farmworkers may move from farm to farm to remain employed, but seasonal workers are able to return daily to their permanent residences (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010).

39 percent were unaccompanied by nuclear family members (compared to 31 percent in 2007; see Carroll & Saltz, 2008), with 69 percent of the unaccompanied being single males without children (U.S. Department of Labor, 2016). Nationally, these figures on unaccompanied males points to a shift from families to single males on the migrant stream.

In addition, 74 percent spoke Spanish as their primary language, the average level of education completed was the 8th grade, 38 percent could not read English at all, 54 percent rented housing from someone other than their employer, 18 percent lived in employer-provided housing, 85 percent were employed directly by their employer, and 15 percent were employed by labor contractors (U.S. Department of Labor, 2016). In terms of income, it is estimated that 16 percent earned less than $10,000 from agricultural employment, 33 percent earned between $10,000 and $19,999, 22 percent earned $20,000 to $29,999, 8 percent earned $30,000 or more, 33 percent had a total family income of less than $20,000, 27 percent had family income between $20,000 and $29,999, and 30 percent had family income of $30,000 or more. Thirty percent had family incomes below poverty levels (U.S. Department of Labor, 2016), although this may be an underestimate due to data collection challenges among members of this labor force.

Although increasing numbers of unaccompanied males are reported over time, the case remains that farmworkers with family members are still the majority of this labor force. In fact, as shown by the enumeration studies for Michigan, men, women, and children make up this population. Further, some unauthorized farmworkers take their children with them on the migrant stream. Children of farmworkers are a particularly vulnerable population, not only because their schooling is disrupted, but they may work in the fields despite laws regulating farm labor. These children are exposed to pesticides, and together with poverty, diminishes their opportunities for healthy development.

Clearly, farmworkers and their children live an impoverished lifestyle. In Michigan, "The average family reportedly includes five people and their income ranges from $12,244 to $16,773, well below the federal poverty level" (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010: 3). As it stands, despite their best efforts to achieve economic and financial well-being, the wages earned by many farmworkers simply are not enough to lift them and their families out of poverty.

A critical report by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission on Michigan's farmworkers indicates that thirty-eight of Michigan's agricultural crops are dependent on labor intensive practices.[2] Although there is no precise count of the number of farmworkers in the state of Michigan, the most recent enumeration study, *Michigan Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study 2013*, estimated that approximately 49,135 migrant and seasonal farmworkers are needed on Michigan's farms (Larson, 2013). It further estimated the number of migrant and seasonal farmworker and non-working family members in the state at 94,167 (Larson, 2013). This figure included 33,337 migrant farmworkers, 16,798 seasonal farmworkers, 29,227 nonfarm workers in migrant households and 15,805 non-farmworkers in seasonal worker households. It is further estimated that approximately 41,038 individuals in Michigan's migrant and seasonal farmworker families were under the age of 20, with nearly 70% under the age of 13 (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010).

Further, the average age of a farmworker in the U.S. is 33, where 50% are younger than 31 years of age and only 20% are between the ages of 35 and 44 (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010). Most of these workers are male, estimated at 79% and, according to the

[2] In 2010, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission released its report on the status of farmworkers in Michigan, raising numerous concerns it heard through a series of public hearing.

Center of Farmworker health, 81% of farmworkers speak Spanish, 24% speak English well and 26% speak a little English (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010). The average family includes five persons and their income ranges from $12,244 to $16,773, well below the federal poverty level (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010: 3). Today, the poverty level is $12,060 for one person and $24,600 for a family of four, and while wages for farmworkers have increased in recent years due to labor shortages, they remain one of the lowest paid labor forces in the country next to domestic workers in service industries.

According to the enumeration study, there is "a statewide average of 68.4% migrants and 31.6% seasonals" (Larson, 2013: 28). A comparison of the figures from the previous enumeration study (Larson, 2006) and the 2013 enumeration study (Larson, 2013) shows that there has been a moderate shift from migrant to seasonal farmworkers in the state, with farmers reporting fewer and fewer migrant workers coming to the state to work on their farms. Table 1 presents changes in the numbers of farmworkers and households in Michigan from 2006 to 2013.

Table 1. Changes in the Estimated Number of Farmworkers and Households in Michigan, 2006-2013.

Year	Farmworker Households	Migrant FW	Seasonal FW	Non-FW in Migrant Households	Non-FW in Seasonal Households	Total Farmworker Non-FW
2006	45800	35148	10652	33671	11245	90716
2013	49135	32337	15798	29227	15805	94167
Difference	+3335	-2811	+5146	-4444	+4560	+3451

Source: Adapted from the estimates by Larson, 2006 and 2013.

The figures in Table 1 document the shift from migrant farmworkers to seasonal farmworkers in Michigan between 2006 and 2013. Migrant farmworkers decreased by 7.9%, from 35,148 to 32,337, while seasonal farmworkers increased by 48.3%, from 10,652 to 15,798. The shift is reflected as well in the number of non-farm working persons in migrant and seasonal households, with those in migrant households decreasing by 13.2%, from 33,671 to 29,227, and those in seasonal households increasing by 40.6%, from 11,245 to 15,805. Overall, farmworkers and the number of persons in their households increased by 3.8% during this period, and this increase occurred among seasonal farmworkers.

This means that the shift from migrant to seasonal workers in recent years is increasing the number of farmworkers living in Michigan, but it is not clear if this is due to migrant families "settling out" of the migrant stream in Michigan and continuing to do farm work, or that more Michigan families are entering the farmworker labor force. If the former, it could be due to the chilling effects of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and its increased immigrant enforcement practices which make it difficult to travel the migrant stream. If the latter, it could be due to decreasing household income and increasing poverty rates in Michigan (Vande Bunte, 2015). For example, in Zeeland City in Ottawa County, which saw an increase of 12% in farmworkers from 2006 to 2013, the median household income decreased from $46,522 to $40,561 between 2009 and 2014 (Vande Bunte, 2015). For decades, there have been workers leaving Southern states as well as other countries and flocking to Midwestern states, like Michigan, in hopes of finding employment, but that may be changing in agriculture.

According to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the 2013 Enumeration Study,

the majority of farmworkers in Michigan work on the Western side of the state, although farms in eastern and southern Michigan also employ them. West Michigan is often referred to as the "fruit belt" (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010) of the state, while Northern Michigan produces Christmas trees and grapes, and the eastern part of the state produces "beans, cabbage, cauliflower, mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes, sugar beets, sod and soybeans… [Importantly, approximately], thirty eight percent of Michigan's agricultural crops are dependent on labor intensive hand-harvesting or processing" (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010: 3).

Mercier (2014) found that agriculture accounted for 6.6% of the Midwest's economy, and that shares produced from these states far outweigh those from other parts of the country. "The Midwest dominates many parts of American agriculture… three Midwest states (Michigan, Minnesota, and North Dakota) rank among the top 10 in the value of specialty crops produced… Midwest livestock farmers account for 55 percent of the nation's hogs and pigs, 39 percent of the nation's beef cattle, and 35 percent of dairy cows" (Mercier, 2014: 2).

The economic benefits from the labor of farmworkers have a profound impact on the lives of every American, not just because they plant, harvest, and pack the agricultural products consumed by American families, but because they contribute to the sustainability of the nation's food systems. Having migrant and seasonal workers on farms across the country has been very beneficial not only for farmers, but for the American economy and American households across the nation as well. As mentioned above, in Michigan, the industry contributes $101.2 billion to the state's economy and accounts for 22 percent of the state's employment (Michigan's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2017). In addition, hearings by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission found that between 50% and 75% of all migrant workers' wages are spent in local businesses (2010). These workers, then, are at the core of the state's and the nation's economies and their well-being.

To some, it may seem peculiar that U.S. businesses are recruiting foreign workers to come and tend to their fields instead of hiring from the local workforce. But it may be that this is occurring even as the number of seasonal workers is increasing. In a context in which the farm labor supply has been destabilized by anti-immigrant fervor, many farm owners are turning to the federal H-2A program to meet their labor needs. As the state's agricultural industry continues to increase, the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers may not meet the labor demands of growers, especially in a context in which the nation is clamping down on undocumented workers and American workers generally are not willing to do the farm work performed by this labor force and will not apply for such jobs. According to Bob Boehm, from Michigan Farm Bureau's Center for Commodity, Farm and Industry Relations, Americans will not work in the fields harvesting crops because the work is physically difficult and it does not pay well by American standards (Gerstein, 2017). As a result, American agriculture is increasingly relying on H-2A workers to tend and harvest the crops. A recent newspaper account states that approximately 6,000 were authorized for Michigan by July of this year, while only 442 were authorized nearly a decade ago (Harger, 2017; also see Gerstein for recent figures). However, by the end of July the figure had increased to 6,571, according to Daniel Inquilla, Farmworker Legal Services.[3]

According to the 2013 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profile Study, "There was an indication of increasing mechanization for previous hand labor activities although only a certain proportion of the crop might be machine harvested… At the same time, workers were still employed in cucumber processing and on the increasing blueberry acreage, much of which continued to employ hand harvesters" (Larson, 2013:14). According to Anders (2013),

[3] Personal communication with second author on July 26, 2017.

Michigan ranks as one of the top five places for migrant and seasonal workers to be employed across the country. Migrant workers in Michigan hold several types of positions ranging from field agriculture, nursery or green housework, produce packing and more. Farmworkers are dispersed throughout the state, but generally tend to be greater in a few key counties. For example, the main counties with larger numbers of migrant workers are Ottawa County with 13,345, followed by Van Buren, which has 12,527. Other counties include Oceana County with 6,960, Berrien County with 6,605 and Allegan County with 5,081 (Larson, 2013).

Migrant workers harvest blueberries, tart cherries, Niagara grapes, cucumbers and flowering plants, and through their labor help make Michigan a leading producer of these products. As they do in Michigan, farmworkers have contributed in making the nation's agricultural system great. Through their hard work, farmworkers are central to local and state economies. It is believed that the diversity of and the level of dispersion of migrant workers across the country is greatly beneficial. In a letter to President Bush in 2006, hundreds of economists reveled in this fact: "While a small percentage of native-born Americans may be harmed by immigration, vastly more Americans benefit from the contributions that immigrants make to our economy, including lower consumer prices" (Goodman, 2014). Farmworkers make these contributions despite the poor working conditions in which they find themselves daily.

Foreign-Born Farmworkers

Both foreign-born and guest workers are central to the American agricultural system. "Farmers say they desperately need the foreign workers to get their crops picked on time after years when vegetables were left to rot in fields" (Livengood, 2016). This manual labor is important for many reasons, but mainly because machines cannot be used effectively to pick all crops or to perform all the tasks required by agricultural production, therefore farmers must rely on human labor. Foreign-born workers have greatly contributed to the sustainability and development of the American agricultural economy. For decades, these workers left their home countries to live temporarily on or near American farms to work in agricultural production. Their labor was a critical component during the first half of the 20th century, as the numerous wars and the growth of major cities left the industry in need of workers. Since farms had less people to tend and harvest the crops necessary to feed millions of Americans across the country, it was imperative that foreign workforces be tapped to meet those demands. This transition from domestic to foreign labor was accompanied by continuing economic changes in rural regions of the country.

Throughout the 20th century, American farmers were accustomed to having access to cheap labor. Moreover, foreign workers are an easily exploitable labor force because they do not know the language or the employment policies of the U.S. Unaware of such policies and their universal human rights, foreign workers, for the most part do not advocate for themselves or others when presented with difficult or unjust employment practices. The differences in culture, language and immigrant status give farm owners extensive control over their workers. The relatively unregulated control farmers have over farmworkers has meant that they influence most aspects of their lives, determining the terms and conditions of employment and housing. Since these workers must rely on their employers for housing, although many growers are outsourcing housing, farmworkers consequently have limited housing options. This is especially the case for undocumented workers who are the lifeblood of American agriculture as they make up approximately three-fourths of this labor force (Centers for Disease Control, 2017). Moreover, guest workers in particular are dependent on growers for transportation. This means that their

travels to towns for provisions and other needs depend heavily on their employers. While in town they may be made to feel unwelcome by locals, leading to increased isolation.

The typical American does not know these aspects about the lives of the workers who help produce the food on their kitchen tables. This is partly due to the fact that the majority of these workers and their families are out of sight from the "average" citizen, and even when one travels on rural roads one is unlikely to see the housing camps where they live as they tend to be situated where they are out of sight from public roads.

Working Conditions and Wages

Nationally, numerous reports describe the hazardous working conditions in which farmworkers labor, along with the low wages and incidents of wage theft they experience. Such conditions include limited access to sanitation facilities and drinking water, exposure to pesticides, long workdays, and low quality housing (Villarejo, 2012). Additionally, farmworkers suffer work-related injuries and often are unable to access workers' compensation during periods of recuperation (Villarejo, 2012). Although working and housing conditions have improved in recent decades, problems remain both nationally and in Michigan.

The Michigan Civil Rights Report of 2010 described the living and working conditions of farmworkers in Michigan as "unconscionable" and "deplorable" and called for a change. Although the State of Michigan provides for the inspection and licensing of housing units provided for migrant workers by growers, the number of inspectors has not always been sufficient for all units to be properly inspected. The units are usually inspected before they are occupied, but seldom if ever after occupancy, when many things can go wrong with the units. Further, with the outsourcing of housing to labor contractors by growers, workers are increasingly housed in hotels and motels near the farms which may or may not have been properly inspected, and which may house a succession of crews during a single season.

Agricultural exemptions ensure that safety regulations meant to protect workers in most occupations do not protect this vulnerable labor force. Historically, farmworkers have not been included under the safety umbrella of federal labor laws and therefore they have limited rights and protections. For example, they are not subject to overtime pay. Racism and nativism[4], reinforced by the drive protect if not increase profits, have also situated farmworkers from knowing about or seeking protections from blatant injustices. Differences in culture and language contribute to the marginalization of these workers, and, given the political climate and the real fear of detention and deportation, these workers are often left feeling even more vulnerable. Some employers have and continue to gain from this power dynamic by failing to provide workers with information on the few employment protections they are supposedly guaranteed.

Wages have been another ongoing struggle for migrant and seasonal workers in the state and nationally. Studies show that "Farmworkers have a very low national average income of approximately $11,000… this annual income is based on an average of 34.5 weeks of labor with 42 hours of labor per week. This is equivalent to an average hourly wage of $4.93." (Arcury, Chen, Grzywacz, et al., 2011). The current federal minimum wage rate is $7.25 an hour, and has not increased since 2009. States, however, set their own rates, and that for Michigan is currently $8.90 but farmworkers are not all receiving full pay for the work they perform even though they

[4] Nativism occurs when members of a society are threatened by immigrants and they take collective actions against newcomers.

are employed in one of the most dangerous industries in the country.

Problems of wage theft, or workers not receiving full pay for work performed, persist. In Michigan, it has been an uphill struggle to ensure that these workers receive fair wages. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission recognized the legitimacy of wage complaints by farmworkers and stressed the importance of migrant and seasonal workers being paid their fair and rightful wages. The industry was under scrutiny because farm owners, in some instances, were paying their workers less than the minimum wage. This was due in part through their reliance on piece rates and, when paying by the bucket, requiring workers to overfill buckets. Another problem in the industry is that it has not routinely used written employment contracts that would make clear the wage rates for farmworkers. Agencies such as Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan and Migrant Legal Aid, and more recently Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, provide legal services to farmworkers, but the migratory lifestyle of farmworkers hinders their willingness to seek legal actions for the "injuries" suffered.

Most reports detail that documented or "legal" permanent residents are less likely to be the victims of wage theft. As such, "Many of the causes for the lower wages of undocumented workers are reduced or eliminated when these workers receive legal permanent resident status" (Kandilov, 2010). The lack of English language proficiency and knowledge of employment regulations mean that these workers are dependent on the honesty and good will of their employers. It may also be that the risks associated with hiring undocumented workers contribute to their lower pay. For example, Kandilov (2010) suggests that, "Businesses that are caught employing undocumented workers are subject to fines and penalties, so they may offer lower wages to offset these potential costs." It would make sense to hire documented or American workers to avoid the risk of having to pay these costs, but labor shortages and the fact that the majority of farmworkers are foreign born leaves growers without an option but to hire these workers.

According to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights 2017 Update Report on the conditions of farmworkers, minimum wage is listed as an "urgent" issue that must be addressed, especially at small farms, which are exempted in Michigan from paying farmworkers a minimum wage. In 2010, the recommendation for the improvement of wages for farmworkers was intended "to ensure migrant and seasonal farmworkers are not paid less than the required minimum wage due to insufficient 'piece rates' or other reasons" (p. 104). The fact that this concern is still listed in the Update Report as "urgent" seven years later points to the persistence of this problem.

In addition to wage problems, migrant and seasonal farmworker are exposed to several occupational health hazards. "Occupational and environmental hazards that confront farmworkers… include the physical environment (sun, heat, rain, organic and inorganic dust), wild plants (e.g., Poison ivy) and animals (e.g., snakes), sharp tools, equipment, chemicals, and noise" (Arcury and Quandt, 2011: 2). Many of these hazards have long term health implications for the worker and their families. Many farmworkers, for example, are exposed to pesticides. "Pesticide exposure is a major occupational health risk for migrant farmworkers. Pesticide exposure has immediate health effects, such as rashes, dizziness, burning eyes, and vomiting; immediate health effects in severe cases of pesticide exposure include coma and death. Pesticide exposure can also have long-term health effects, including increased risk for cancer, neurological decline and problems with reproduction" (Arcury, et al, 2011). These chemicals get on their clothes and then are transferred to their homes where they may expose family members. While the number of confirmed pesticide related illnesses and injuries continue to go down, the number of unreported cases may exceed those confirmed. Moreover, it may take repeated exposures

over time for symptoms to show up, making it difficult to pinpoint exposure incidents.

Further, since farmworkers may live in overcrowded housing, numerous persons in the household may be exposed to chemicals on a regular basis, including women and children. Protections against this exposure have been on the rise, as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WPS) requires all those employed in agriculture to receive some form of pesticide training, although this training is not always provided. This is due in part to cost. "Farmers have acknowledged the occupational hazards inherent in farming, but their beliefs have limited their willingness to adhere to safety procedures, particularly when these procedures are perceived as affecting the economic viability of their enterprise. The result is that many farmers have not instituted a culture of work safety, often believing that safety regulations imposed from outside agencies were unnecessary" (Arcury, et al, 2012: S272).

Undocumented workers are more likely to face poor working environments as they are often provided minimal protections in this already dangerous industry. Several studies show that while agricultural workers are treated unfairly, those that are undocumented or lack basic knowledge of American systems and culture may suffer the poorest workplace conditions. For example, "Farmworkers without H-2A visas were less likely to be provided with pesticide safety equipment, to be told when pesticides were applied… [T]hose without H-2A visas more often reported working in fields when pesticides were being applied, and working in areas adjacent to fields in which pesticides were being applied…" (Arcury, et al., 2011: 6). For example, the Environmental Protection Agency changed course in banning insecticides in which chlorpyrifos is the active ingredient when the shift from the Obama to the Trump administration occurred. In May, 2015 nearly 50 farmworkers working near Bakersfield, California were exposed to the dangerous chemical which was sprayed in a neighboring farm and drifted to the cabbage field where they were working. Chlorpyrifos has its origins in a nerve gas that was developed by Nazi Germany. Several of the workers became nauseous, vomited and exhibited other symptoms. The pesticide is linked to developmental problems in children and large doses can cause death.

Further, limited access to healthcare exacerbates these problems. Undocumented status basically removes the safety protections and, in many cases, puts health care out of the grasp of these workers. Even though there are several agencies that are putting measures in place to curtail the prevalence of this problem, for instance the Michigan Primary Care Association, status, language and cultural differences limit access for these farmworkers. Consequently, undocumented farmworkers may go untreated and, therefore, are forced to endure physical pain and illnesses to make a living.

Beyond the dangers of pesticide exposure crowded housing leads to additional health issues, some physical and others mental. "Social characteristics, such as crowding and noise, have been associated with depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal. Physical characteristics like mold, insect, or rodent infestation, structural damage, and unsanitary facilities have been associated with respiratory disease, skin disease, infectious diseases, and injuries" (Vallejos, Quandt, Grzywacz, et al., 2011). Housing remains a concern as farmworkers rent housing from non-employers or are reliant on the housing provided by their employers. This is a problem both nationally and in Michigan. In its 2010 report, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission held that the status of farmworker housing in the state needed improvement. Agencies in Michigan continue to work to provide adequate housing and oversight to ensure farmworkers have adequate housing. As a result, seven years later the problem of adequate housing has improved, according to the 2017 Update Report, indicating some progress. These efforts have included staffing in the Migrant Labor Housing Program (MDARD) to ensure adequate inspections of

housing units across the state, as well as a better functioning Interagency MSFW Referral Form to streamline communications regarding complaints from partner agencies and farmworkers.

Food (In)Security

Lack of money compounded by nonfinancial barriers like language and culture has greatly limited the resources available to farmworkers and their families. Often, healthcare, education, and "youthful activities" fall between the cracks. The health and welfare of the children of farmworkers continue to gain attention as reports point out the many effects poverty and discrimination have on the life trajectories of these youth. Numerous reports have indicated the effects that poverty has on these families and their children. Food insecurity, for example, is a problem for many Latino households, and it is especially prevalent among farmworker households. For example, "For households with incomes near or below the federal poverty line, households with children headed by single women or single men, women and men living alone, and Black- and Hispanic-headed households, the rates of food insecurity were substantially higher than the national average" (Coleman-Jensen, Rittenhouse, & Cain, 2016: vi). Nearly a decade ago Weigel, et al. found the following:

> The prevalence of food insecurity in Hispanics and other vulnerable low-income, minority groups is at least double the national average… estimates from the 2004 Current Population Survey… indicated that 21.7% of Hispanic households were food insecure compared to 11.9% of the general U.S. population. The estimated prevalence of food insecurity was even higher for low-income Hispanics (i.e. 37.2%)… the latter accounts for three-fourths of the estimated 4.2 million MSWFs and their households who live and work in the U.S" (2007: 157-158).

An understanding of the prevalence of food insecurity in farmworker households demands systematic study. Studies are showing that approximately one-half to two-thirds of farmworker households are food insecure (Wadsworth, Rittenhouse & Cain, 2016), depending on the region and the specific site of the study.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food security means that a family has access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. Food insecurity, on the other hand, means that a family does not have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of nutritious food, and food insecurity with hunger means that on any given time through the week, families lacked food altogether. The lack of adequate foods in farmworker households places heavy burdens on the overall health of children and on their overall life trajectories. As children in food insecure homes are often faced with increased intake of non-nutritional foods or no food at all, it is not uncommon for studies to highlight the health risks of food insecurity faced by these children. According to Kilanowski and Moore (2010), who studied food security and dietary intake among migrant farmworker children in the Midwest,

> "…[H]ouseholds experiencing low levels of food security were associated with their children being overweight and obese. Studies of preschool-aged Mexican American children found that rates of overweight or obese children peaked among low food-secure and very low food-secure families. In very low food-secure households, children were less likely to meet U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Guide Pyramid recommendations, and this was associated with fewer household supplies of both nutrient-dense… and less nutritious foods…" (p. 361).

Food insecurity and the lack of nutritional foods add to the overall health disparities experienced

by the families of farmworkers.

Not only do financial and cultural barriers prevent these families from fully accessing food banks and healthcare providers, but they suffer from the lack of nutritional foods which in turn greatly impacts their health. As Weigel, et al. (2007) point out,

> [The] … food security status of households has important health and nutritional implications… chronic household food insecurity has been linked with compromised health outcomes in some U.S. subpopulations… [S]ome studies have shown that adults and children from food insecure homes are more likely to report poorer overall heath and decreased physical functioning compared to those who are food secure… [C]hronic food insecurity may promote the development of overweight/obesity in certain subpopulations and perhaps speed the onset of or worsen existing type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and other obesity-related chronic conditions (p. 158).

The fact that food insecurity greatly impacts these families should be alarming as many are the same families that migrate from farm to farm to produce the food Americans consume. Brown and Getz (2011) described this contradiction when they held that those that produce the nation's food are among the most likely to be hungry or food insecure. "It is but one measure of the vulnerability experienced by farmworkers in their daily lives, albeit a critical one given that food is essential to human survival…[T]his vulnerability has been systemically constructed within the political economy of agrarian capital accumulation, immigration politics, and neoliberal trade policy" (p. 121).

Vulnerable Children

There are many barriers that negatively impact the lives of farmworkers and, perhaps more importantly, those of their children. In 1998, the U.S. General Accounting Office (today the General Accountability Office) estimated that there were 300,000 youth ages 15 to 17 working in the nation's fields (Hess, 2007). According to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission report of 2010, there are an estimated 400,000 children that work in agriculture nationwide. These are not young adults nearing the age of 18; these are children as young as 12 that perform this work without any hourly restrictions, except that they cannot work when school is in session. With regard to Michigan,

> An estimated 41,000 children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers accompany their parents to Michigan each year. Many children work alongside their parents in Michigan's fields and orchards… [M]igrant families depend on the additional income provided by the child laborers… [C]hildren in the fields face the same difficulties and dangers as adult farmworkers (Michigan Civil Rights Commission, 2010: 77).

The fact is that many farmworker families are forced to rely on the help of their children for economic reasons. To make ends meet, they must rely on their children to assist them in this grueling work. Often, this is a great sacrifice to the children as they give up precious time engaging in educational activities and, simply put, being youthful because family financial obligations are too high and the risks of going hungry or becoming homeless too great.

In 2009, an investigative report by ABC News showed children in Michigan working the blueberry fields in South Haven farms, one as young as six years of age (Patel, Hill & Eslocker, 2009). This investigation sparked some public concern and outrage as people witnessed photographs of children carrying buckets of blueberries while others picked them. This public

concern brought some visibility to the exploitation of child labor not just on some Michigan farms but across the nation. Farmworker advocate organizations promoted films that shed light on the problem. *The Harvest*, which came out in 2010, for example, follows three youths through the harvest cycle, framing their lives as a form of indentured servitude. The lax enforcement of child labor laws was met by renewed efforts by farmworker advocacy and labor organizations to remove children from the agriculture labor markets. But, as is often the case, public attention quickly moves from one public issue to another, and today this concern has receded in the face of numerous policy challenges linked to the Trump administration. In Michigan, the Office of Migrant Affairs has and will continue to work with the Michigan Department of Education to ensure categorical eligibility for child care assistance for farmworker families.

Children working in the fields suffer the same working conditions as their parents and other working adults. As a result, children experience the same occupational health risks faced by their parents, though it is worse for youth as they are still developing. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission addressed the problem as follows:

> Musculoskeletal injuries caused by bending over for long periods, stooping, twisting or lifting heavy bags and buckets are common among children in the fields. Children use tools designed for adults, causing cramping and blisters, and experience a higher risk of cuts by sharp scissors or hoes. Working in extreme heat and weather conditions is also dangerous for children's developing bodies, often causing heat exhaustion. Long work hours have a substantial and well-documented negative impact on teenagers' health, social development and education (2010: 78).

Despite federal and state policies and public efforts to intervene on behalf of these children, some children can still be found working on the nation's farms. In this context, programs designed to assist migrant farmworker families continue to provide services as they seek to mitigate the circumstances in which these families live and work.

Programs Serving Michigan Farmworkers

National and state-based programs exist to provide educational services to the children of farmworkers to alleviate the negative effects of their migrant lifestyles. For example, "The most fortunate children are those under five in areas where farmworkers have access to the services offered by Michigan Migrant Head Start (MMHS), which provides free childcare for migrant and seasonal farmworkers' children between two weeks and five years of age" (MCRC, 2010: 81). This is an important form of support as countless families reported not having or being unable to afford proper childcare services while they are at work, which forces them to bring their children to the fields with them. A national program, Head Start was designed to assist low-income families with their educational, health, and social functioning goals. According to their website, Michigan Migrant Head Start, Telamon Corporation is a federally-funded preschool program that provides services to children ages two weeks to 5 years from low-income families by enhancing their "cognitive, social and emotional development." Benefits of the program include, "… a secure setting where children can develop their skills under the watchful eyes of well-trained caregivers. Partial or full-day services at centers include health and dental screenings, nutritious meals, individual as well as group learning experiences, play opportunities and other structured activities… parents are included in program planning and oversight activities" (Telamon Corporation Transition Resources Corporation, 2017).

In addition to the services provided by Telamon, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has the Migrant Education Program (MEP) which "is designed to support high-quality comprehensive educational programs for migratory children and help reduce the educational disruptions and other problems that result from repeated moves" (MCRC, 2010: 86). Additionally, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development oversees the certification of migrant housing. In the Lower Peninsula, it licenses housing at approximately 870 sites which include 4,000 living units that can accommodate 23,000 persons. It also provides housing guides for farmworkers.

This housing mechanism was set up to ensure the public health of migrant workers under Part 124 (which pertains to agricultural labor camps) of Public Act 368 which mandates that licensees provide occupants with safe water supplies, proper sanitation facilities, places to properly prepare and store food and functioning waste facilities, as well as fire and structural safety. A 2017 follow-up report by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, written by Martha Gonzales-Cortes (2017), indicates that Michigan farmers have been making progress in providing adequate housing for these workers. According to their 2010 study, the housing conditions of these workers needed urgent attention. The recommendations detailed that housing units were not adequately maintained even as several people lived in these units, including children and unrelated adults. In order to adhere to these standards, licensees (growers) began addressing housing deficiencies in order to meet the standards detailed by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

From 2010 to 2017, a seven-year span, the housing conditions of migrant farmworkers improved. Listed accomplishments of the work done to make this possible are provided in the follow-up report, which states that a strong and steady "volume" of inspections takes place during both pre-season occupancy and in-season occupancy. A highly functional interagency entity, the Michigan Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC), contributes to this process by maintaining a stable communications network that includes government, non-profit and university representatives who inform each other of problems arising and opportunities to collaborate on improving the services provided to farmworker families and workers. This is an important improvement, as it shows that the human and economic worth of migrant farmworkers is noted and being taken seriously.

Still, housing remains an issue that must be constantly discussed and tended to by farmworker advocates to make it safe and livable for all its inhabitants (Garcia, 2014). The typical family resides in rural areas sprinkled across the state. As these housing units are often hidden from public view behind dense tree lines and other obstacles, their condition seldom attracts public attention. The lack of visibility, however, may protect workers (some undocumented) from hostile community members who may feel emboldened to harass or harm them. At the same time, their location may serve to protect farm owners from facing legal charges and fees associated with providing poor housing to these families.

Further, issues of access by service providers to the units where farmworkers are housed may arise, especially as more and more labor contractors are active in the farmworker labor market and their employment, as they may not be aware that access must be provided by law, and that property rights do not divest farmworkers of their rights to communications, associations and so on. Indeed, it was the pioneering decision by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan in 1971 that held that access to tenants of employer provided housing must be provided not only to government officials, but to representatives of private non-profit agencies or organizations which promote the general well-being of migrant workers and

their families, including health, education, and job training services and opportunities [Folgueras v. Hassle, 331 F. Supp. 615 (1971)].

It may be that the need for economic gain drives the quality of farmworker housing, as countless court documents and research findings have indicated that the housing options provided to migrant farmworkers by farmers require constant vigilance. "Substandard housing conditions are a common issue farmworkers face. Not only do many workers live in crowded, unsanitary conditions, but they often lack basic utilities, live in isolated areas far away from important services like health clinics, grocery stores, and public transportation, and in many cases, pay exorbitant rates for rent" (National Farm Worker Ministry, 2017). Because farm employers are required by law to provide housing to their workers, there is an opportunity for them to profit more from the backs of these workers.

Currently, these workers are only provided three housing options: government housing, grower-owned housing and privately rented housing. Government housing is an amenity for which most workers do not qualify, as they must be documented to live in these housing units. As it stands, with the influx of workers through the H-2A program and the vast recruitment in other countries to bring in workers illegally, many workers do not qualify. "While it's impossible to accurately measure exactly how many farmworkers are undocumented, estimates show that at least 6 out of 10 of our country's farmworkers are undocumented" (National Farm Worker Ministry, 2017).

Therefore, through the requirement that farm owners supply their workers with housing, a loophole has been made that allows farm owners the opportunity to make additional money from their laborers through grower-owned housing. It makes sense that this method has become a viable option for owners to make additional money as it is almost the only housing these workers can rely on. Being that they are in rural areas often displaced from larger cities or the general population overall, workers have limited access to privately rented housing. Even still, if they were to be in proximity of this housing option, poverty and financial deprivation almost mandates that these workers rely on their employers to provide them housing. This is especially the case for guest workers, as growers are required to provide housing for them (National Farm Worker Ministry, 2017). However, "…[F]or the majority of workers living in grower-owned housing, rent is deducted from the farmworker's paycheck… the landowner can have a monopoly on available housing, which allows them to overcharge. This is especially true in isolated rural areas, where other housing options simply don't exist, and thus workers have no alternative but to pay these rates" (National Farm Worker Ministry, 2017).

Other programs set in place to protect these workers are also limited in their effectiveness beyond providing direct services, which are never enough, as they traditionally lack the influence relative to that of growers, mainly through the Farm Bureau, to reduce the injustices committed against migrant workers and their families. According to the report by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission on the conditions of these workers, enforcement as a deterrent was listed as an "urgent" issue that needed to addressed, and in 2017, seven years after the initial report, the status of this problem is still listed as urgent. The problem is cited as the need to "Ensure swift, certain, systemic and sufficient fines for housing, health and/or other violations as a deterrent to bad conduct (Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 2017: 2). Historically, the Migrant Labor Housing inspection programs have been understaffed, even when public agencies report that they are fully staffed, allowing farm owners to self-report the status of the housing units on their farms.

Current Situation

According to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission 2010 study, relationships among service providers needed to be improved in order to better serve all migrant workers in the state requiring assistance. It further held that cross training of agencies and interagency referrals needed attention. Historically, there had been limited cross training of state employees and the staff members of their partner agencies, therefore there was absent a mechanism by which to conduct accurate interagency referrals when needs were identified by partner agencies. In response to these concerns, engagement by the Interagency Migrant Services Committee has had a positive influence in promoting awareness of services and farmworker rights through cross training of outreach workers and "Know Your Rights" training and other outreach activities. The 2017 Update Report by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights holds that the statuses of farms that engage with the IMSC's partnering agencies are doing well. It is important that these activities continue if improvements are to be made in the lives of Michigan's farmworkers. The IMSC helps add to their support base by promoting the sharing of information, and more and more workers are informed of their rights and available services. Relationships between IMSC partners and the farms that employ migrant workers have increased as well.

Currently, according to the 2017 update report, closer collaboration among IMSC partners has resulted in an improved service delivery system for farmworkers. This progress has led to improvements in other areas involving migrant workers. As of 2017, the rates of interagency referrals and cross training have increased significantly. Throughout the last few years, the IMSC has conducted and reported on several training activities across the state aimed at cross training and providing agencies with the support they need to make these impactful changes in the delivery of services to migrant farmworkers. Despite these gains in service delivery, there is still much that needs to be done to ensure that the protections of these workers are realized while on the farms. Health issues continue to be of concern due to the dangers associated with type of work performed by farmworkers. In 2010, the Michigan Civil Right Commission reported that the status of educational outreach and field sanitation concerns were stable but could use some attention for improvements to occur.

Health risks stem from the fact that, historically, these workers endured the lack of drinking water and appropriate field sanitation, among other workplace dangers which pose life and death risks for farmworkers. Farmworkers endure long work days with minimal breaks to eat and drink. In recent years, there have been efforts to ensure the cross training of farmworkers and growers to ensure that preventive measures are taken to avoid pesticide exposure, for example. These training activities have a positive impact on the health of workers since appropriate precautions are taken to reduce the chances of being exposed to harmful chemicals. In some instances, grants were awarded to agencies so they could better address these concerns. Many farm owners in Michigan have sought to address these workplace concerns partly because they want to ensure a stable and reliable labor force, but also because they want to ensure that consumers have a positive view of their products and will purchase them in the marketplace.

Another major issue that migrant and seasonal workers continue to face across the nation has to do with immigration and law enforcement practices. In 2010, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission found that the status of these workers and this system were in urgent need of reform in order to improve the lives of the farmworker. Historically, increased enforcement of immigration laws by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Homeland Security Section of the Michigan State Police caused urgent concerns from the farmworker community about racial profiling leading to routine traffic stops, as well as opposition by public

officials and legislators to allow undocumented farmworkers to obtain a driver's license or state identification card. Although the 2017 Update Report holds these barriers to be stable, efforts continue by farmworker, immigrant advocacy agencies, and, in some instances, growers in the state to push for identification cards and driver license privileges. In the absence of a statewide policy, some local jurisdictions, such as Kalamazoo County, allow undocumented immigrants to obtain identification cards.

Post-911 changes to the Michigan Driver's License Law date back to 2008, when it was changed to require proof of U.S. citizenship or legal immigration status to obtain a driver's license or state identification card. This was also due in part to racially motivated discrimination promoted by anti-immigrant movements targeting Latinos and other immigrants; included among such advocates are local elected officials who openly oppose undocumented immigrants. Since 2010, the issue has increased significantly, especially with the racial profiling of Latino workers in a context of feverish anti-immigrant sentiments. To curtail racial profiling, community agencies have advocated for change in the laws and policies to make it easier for undocumented immigrants to obtain the proper documentation to operate a vehicle. While the 2017 Update Report does not hold racial profiling or racially motivated activities as major concerns given that local enforcement agencies are working more closely with Migrant Resource Councils across the state to prevent such practices, the challenge of reforming the law to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driving privileges remains an urgent concern among these workers as well as among those who advocate for them, including some growers.

Efforts like the development of Traffic Law Guide for Migrant Farmworkers and other efforts are under way to address ongoing concerns among city police and community members. Through their seven-year efforts, the IMSC and other farmworker support entities have seen reduced emphasis by the Michigan State Police on immigrants, preferring to focus on violent and cybercrimes, traffic safety and drug enforcement. However, the anti-immigrant climate that prevails across the country, including Michigan, continues to threaten the labor supply to Michigan farms.

Amendments to Michigan's laws and policies that impact the employment of migrant and seasonal farmworkers continue as major concerns, although their statuses are rated as "good" in the 2017 Update Report. For example,

> the IMSC Policy, Advocacy, & Civil Rights Subcommittee was created in fall of 2015 to address urgent issues and in some cases take a stance on pending legislation, abusive practices, and pending policy changes with the force of law, such as: the anti-immigrant policies of SB 445 and HB 4891; expanded out-of-state housing assignments for H2A workers working in Michigan to avoid MI housing enforcement; Driver's License Bills HB 5940, 5941 & SB 501; Unemployment Fraud bill HB 4982; E-verify proposal HB 4926; Improving Language Access HB 4891; Anti-Sanctuary Cities proposal SB 445; and minimum wage enforcement jurisdiction for farmworkers paid piece rate and those who work on small farms (Michigan Department of Civil Rights Update Report, 2017: 10).

Historically, laws were used punitively against these workers and tended to dehumanize them and devalue their importance to the economic fabric of the state. Through the hard work of several partner agencies, including the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the IMSC Policy, Advocacy and Civil Rights Subcommittee, the status of this recommendation has improved significantly even as legislators actively pursue legislation guided by anti-immigration

sentiments.

The lack of bilingual state employees has been another major issue faced by migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the state. Historically, there has been a deficit in the number of bilingual state workers that can work with or help migrant and seasonal farmworkers who do not speak English. Farmworkers across the state have expressed concerns about persistent English proficiency challenges that limit access to basic public services, and many partner agencies remain concerned with the low numbers of bilingual state professionals. This, along with decreased Agricultural Employment Specialist staffing at the Talent Investment Agency has kept this issue as an ongoing urgent concern well into 2017. Despite steps taken by different agencies to address this concern, there is still a huge gap in the number of bilingual state employees and the services offered to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Lastly, soliciting input on solutions to these issues from farmworker experts also remains a challenge since the 2010 report. There is increasing recognition of the systemic challenges faced by these workers and the need to garner input from experts in national networks to alleviate or address these challenges. Garnering input from such experts from across the nation could lead to significant progress in creating and sustaining major systemic changes in addressing barriers and issues faced by migrant and seasonal workers across Michigan.

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Appendix

Resources for Migrant Farmworkers

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services MI Bridges – Cash assistance
Provides cash assistance for pregnant women or low-income families with minor children that need assistance. Participants of this program must take part in a "results-oriented" work participation program where barriers to employment are identified and caseworkers are met to connect them to more resources.

Michigan Department of Human Services – Migrant Program Offices & Counties Serviced
Allegan DHS – 3255 122nd Ave, Suite 300, Allegan, MI
(269) 673-7700

Assists clients review eligibility for Medicaid and childcare services, completion of applications for program assistance, home visits, referrals to job agencies, transportation services for medical services. Works with migrant resource councils in providing assistance.

Local Department of Health and Human Service Offices

Benzie/Manistee DHS – 448 Court Plaza, Beulah, MI
(231) 873-7217

Berrien DHS – 401 Eighth St., Benton Harbor, MI
(269) 934-2000

Grand Traverse/ Leelanau DHS – 701 S. Elmwood, Suite 19, Traverse City, MI
(231) 929-2511

Kent DHS – 536 S. State St., Sparta, MI
(616) 887-5700

Lapeer DHS – 1505 Suncrest Dr., Lapeer, MI
(810) 667-0800

Lenawee DHS – 1040 S. Winter St. Suite 3013, Adrian, MI
(517) 264-6300

Oceana DHS – 4081 W. Polk Rd., Hart, MI
(231) 873-7251

Ottawa DHS – 12185 James St., Suite 200, Holland, MI
(616) 394-7200

Van Buren DHS – 57150 C.R. 681, Hartford, MI
(269) 621-2800

Michigan Resource Councils

Migrant Resource Councils are a collaborative effort to improve the lives of migrant and seasonal workers and their families. Monthly forums allow the councils to coordinate and cooperate on matters related to farmworker safety; topics covered include: exchanging information of services to farmworkers; reducing duplication of services; identifying unmet needs of farmworkers and their families; establishing referral networks and coordinating delivery of services. Through this effort, spanning 51 counties, each council serves local farmworkers and their families.

COUNCIL	OFFICERS
1. **SOUTHWESTERN MI MRC:** (Branch, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties) Meets the second Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Call for location.	Southwestern MI MRC c/o InterCare 285 James St. Holland, MI 49424 616-399-0200 Email: CHGarcia@intercare.org Southwestern MI MRC c/o Telamon NFJP 32849 E Red Arrow Hwy, Suite 200 Paw Paw, MI 49079 269-459-2300 x7101 Fax: 269-655-1094 Email: mvalle@telamon.org
2. **ALLEGAN/OTTAWA/BARRY MRC:** (Allegan, Barry, and Ottawa Counties) Meets the fourth Thursday of the month, February through October, at 1:30pm. Call for location.	Allegan/Ottawa/Barry MRC c/o Ottawa DHHS 12185 James St, Suite 200 Holland, MI 49424 616-394-7211 Fax: 616-395-5535 Email: desantiagod@michigan.gov
3. **SPARTA AREA MRC:** (Kent, Muskegon, and Newaygo Counties) Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, March through October, at 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Family Church, 425 South State St, Sparta.	Sparta Area MRC c/o District Health Department #10 105 S. Front Street, PO Box 75 Grant, MI 49327 231-834-7239 Fax: 231-834-5490 Email: mrangel@dhd10.org Sparta Area MRC c/o Telamon MI Migrant Head Start 416 N. Cedar Lansing, MI 48912 517-323-7002 ext. 123 Email: jlopez1@telamon.org

4. **WEST MICHIGAN MRC:** (Mason and Oceana Counties) Meets the third Tuesday of the month, April through October, at 9:30 a.m. at the District #10 Oceana Health Department, 3086 N. Oceana Drive, Hart.	West Michigan MRC c/o Health Project, Mercy Health 217 N. Michigan Ave Shelby, MI 49455 231-672-3365 or 231-923-3685 Fax: 231-861-2639 Email: Catalina.burillo@mercyhealth.com West Michigan MRC c/o Muskegon Community Health Project 565 W. Western Avenue Muskegon, MI 49440 231-672-3201, 866-671-4819 Fax: 231-672-8407 Email: hidalgol@mercyhealth.com
5. **NORTHWEST MICHIGAN MRC:** (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford Counties) Meets the third Friday of the month, April thru November, at 9:30 a.m. Call for location or visit nwmimrc.weebly.com.	Sierra Gould, Chairperson Northwest MI MRC Email: gould.sn@gmail.com
6. **GREAT LAKES MRC:** (Arenac, Bay, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Midland, Oakland, St. Clair, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties) Meets the third Wednesday or Thursday of the month, April through October, at 10:00 a.m. Call for location.	Great Lakes MRC c/o TIA/Workforce Development 550 Lake Drive, P.O. Box 600 Lapeer, MI 48446 810-664-1680 x19, Fax: 810-664-6740 Email: Rendon-MurrayB@michigan.gov
7. **SOUTHEASTERN MI MRC:** (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties) Meets the third Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Lenawee Department of Health and Human Services, 1040 Winter Street, Suite 3013, Adrian.	Southeastern Michigan MRC c/o Lenawee County DHHS 1040 S. Winter St, Suite 2013 Adrian MI 49221 517-438-0607 Fax: 517-264-6357 Email: floresr2@michigan.gov Southeastern Michigan MRC c/o TIA/Workforce Development 1040 S. Winter St, Suite 1014 Adrian MI 49221 517-266-5627 x64274 Email: ramosm2@michigan.gov

8. **CAPITAL AREA MRC:** (Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Livingston Counties) Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, April through September, at 10:00 a.m. Call for location.	Capital Area MRC c/o Ingham DHHS 5303 S. Cedar St., Suite 1 Lansing, MI 48911 517-243-4753 Fax: 517-887-9500 Email: cruzg@michigan.gov
	Mid-Michigan MRC c/o USDA Rural Development 7480 West Polk Road Alma MI 48801 616-970-9017 Email: aileen.waldron@mi.usda.gov
	Mid-Michigan MRC c/o Kent Co DHHS – Sparta Office 536 South State Sparta, MI 49345 616-430-7452 Fax: 517-346-9888 Email: collinsj4@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
525 W Allegan St, Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: (517) 373-0440
(Emergency) Customer Service Center at **1-800-292-3939**
Agriculture Pollution/Spills Hot Line: 1-800-405-0101

Workforce Development Agency
Victor Office Center
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: (517) 335-5858
Fax: (517) 241-8217

Legal Services

Farmworker Legal Services
3030 S 9th St Ste 1A,
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 492-7190

Immigration Law Clinic
Michigan State University College of Law
610 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI, 48823.
(517) 336-8088 x1014

Migrant Legal Aid
1104 Fuller Ave., NE
Grand Rapids, MI
(616) 454-5055
Toll Free (Gratis): 1-800-418-3390

Michigan Immigrant Rights Centers
3030 S. 9th Street, Suite 1B
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Office Phone: (269) 492-7196

Ann Arbor
220 E. Huron Street, Suite 600A
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Office Phone: (734) 239-6863

Education and Other Services

Migrant Education
Van Buren Intermediate School District
490 South Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
269-674-8091

Telamon Corporation

Telamon – Headstart

Lansing
416 N. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 323-7002

Holland
111 West 13th Street,
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 796-3497

Benton Harbor
1720 S. Park Rd.,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 944-4042

New Era
3656 West Grant Road,
New Era, MI 49446
(231) 861-8883

Mears
5527 West Fox Road, PO
Box 140, Mears, MI 49436
(231) 873-1630

South Haven
72399 12th Ave, South
Haven, MI 49090
(269) 637-0567 ext. 3025

Telamon – Workforce Development

Lansing
416 N. Cedar Street,
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 323-7002

Holland
121 Clover Street,
Holland , MI 49424
(616) 396-5160

Paw Paw
32849 Red Arrow Hwy,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 459-2300

Sparta
1495 10 Mile Rd. NW,
Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 520-4620

Traverse City
1209 S. Garfield, Ste. C,
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 941-5300

Telamon – Housing Services

32849 Red Arrow Hwy,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 655-9916

6350 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48917
269-290-7095

Food Pantries

Provided here is a brief list of food pantries. Before visiting any pantry, it is suggested to call ahead to confirm their hours and eligibility requirements. There are over 3,200 food pantries in Michigan, most affiliated with a religious organization. To find additional food pantries in Michigan go to www.Findapantry.org or use the following link:

http://www.findafoodpantry.org/?p=state&type=2&region=MI&sort=city&order=asc&page=180&limit=20

Community Action House - Macatawa Resource Center
665 - 136th Avenue,
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 392-2368

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
480 152nd,
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 399-1062

Beechwood Food Pantry
895 Ottawa Beach Rd,
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 786-9009

Engedi Church
710 Chicago Drive Suite 300,
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 796-6799

Community Kitchen
101 E. 13th Street,
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-2368 |

Community Action House - Main Office
345 W. 14th Street,
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-2368 |

New Community Fourth Reformed Church
238 W. 15th St.,
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-2590

His Harvest Stand
100 S Pine Ste 100,
Zeeland, MI 49464
(616) 748-6003

Love INC Harvest Bible Chapel
15020 Stanton,
West Olive, MI 49460
(616) 786-2233

Georgetown Christian Reformed Church
6475 40th Ave,
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 669-5180

Saint Luke University Parish
6163 Lake Michigan Dr.,
Allendale, MI 49401
(616) 895-2247

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
13421 Green St.,
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 846-3548

Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ
4950 32nd Ave.,
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 669-1295

Jehovah Jireh Ministries of West Michigan
3494 Perry St,
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 896-1570

Love INC St. John Episcopal
524 Washington Ave,
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-6260 |

Love INC St. Patrick's Catholic Church
920 Fulton St.,
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-0001

Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church
1571 Baldwin Street,
Jenison, MI 49428
(616) 457-3850

St. Mary's Catholic Church
406 Savidge St.,
Spring Lake, MI 49456
(616) 842-1702

Love INC First Reformed Church
300 Washington St.,
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-6600

Love INC All Shores Wesleyan Church
15550 Cleveland St.,
Spring Lake, MI 49456
(616) 842-3880

Mi Porcion es Jehova Church
33 Elwell St SW,
Wyoming, MI 59548
(616) 717-3584

Love INC Spring Lake Presbyterian
760 Savidge St.,
Spring Lake, MI 49456
(616) 842-5060

Coopersville Cares
180 68th Ave,
Coopersville, MI 49404
(616) 997-8602

Love INC Ferrysburg Community Church
17785 Mohawk Dr.,
Ferrysburg, MI 49456
(616) 842-3880

St. Pius X Church Pantry
4123 40th Avenue,
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 532-9344

Grandville Senior Neighbors
3380 Division SW,
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 531-5250

Telamon Corporation – Grand Haven
1830 172nd Street Suite G
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 396-5160

Calvary CRC
3555 Byron Center Ave. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 534-0934

Buist Community Assistance Center
8306 Byron Center Ave SW,
Byron Center, MI 49315
(616) 583-4080

Remembrance Church Food Pantry
4575 Remembrance Rd NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
(616) 453-7700

Beverly Reformed Church
2141 Porter St SW ,
Wyoming, MI 49519
(616) 532-7040

Wesley Park UMC
1150 32nd St. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 534-4411

Family Network of Wyoming
1029 44th St. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49504
(616) 885-9919

UCOM
1311 Chicago Dr. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 241-4006

Saint Johns United Church of Christ Food Truck
1934 Bridge St. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 453-2497

Faith Reformed Church Food Pantry
618 32nd St. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 532-0206

Roosevelt Park Community CRC
811 Chicago Dr. SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49509
(616) 243-5875

The Other Way Ministries
710 Fulton W,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 454-4011 ext. 24

True Ministries
8250 Byron Creek Dr,
Byron Center, MI, 49315
(616) 878-6000

Ideal Park CRC
320 56 th St. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49548
(616) 532-2204

GR West International Church-Nazarene
1313 Bristol Rd. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 453-5550

Ceasar Chavez Elementary School
1205 Grandville Ave SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 826-6975

Inner City Church Planting Mission
755 Butterworth,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 459-5352

Nonprofit Innovations @ Missionary Church
200 Griggs St SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 648-3111

Gold Ave. CRC
49 Gold Ave. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 454-8925

Salvation Army Booth Family Services
1215 Fulton St E,
Grand Rapids, MI – 49503
(616) 459-9468

SECOM Ministries
1545 Buchanan SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 452-7684

Evangelistic Center
642 Bridge St. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 451-8503

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
3950 Leonard St. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
(616) 453-0803

Family Outreach Center - FET Program
1939 S. Division Ave,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 247-3815

City View Church
936 Alpine Ave. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 235-1533

Iglesia El Alfarero
1737 Division SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 243-5903

New Hope Baptist Church Food Pantry
130 Delaware St SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 452-4278

Covenant United Reformed Church
58 100th St. SW,
Byron Center, MI 49315
(616) 877-0326

St. Vincent de Paul - Free Food Program
1314 S. Division,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 452-1408

Nonprofit Innovations
50 Antoine SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 648-3111

St Mary's Steepletown Food Pantry
423 First Street,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 459-9630

Northwest Pantry - Trinity Reformed Church
1224 Davis NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 451-4036

Mel Trotter Ministries Food Pantry
47 Williams Street SW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 454-8249 ext.232

New Life Food Pantry COGIC
1072 Jefferson Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 247-0250

Covenant Christian Reformed Church
7171 Willard SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
(616) 455-5120

God's Love Collaborative Pantry
1045 Cass Street. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 243-5984

Grace CRC
100 Buckley St. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 452-8920

God's Kitchen
303 South Division,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 454-4110

Together In Faith Ministries
300 Hall St. SE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49507
(616) 452-5945

Degage Food Pantry
144 S. Division,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 454-1661

Madison Square CRC
1441 Madison Ave SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 245-7791

Madison Square CRC Food Pantry
1434 Madison Ave SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 245-7791

Acts Gospel Outreach Ministries
1255 Broadway Ave. NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 451-9950

Discovery Christian Reformed Church
7245 Eastern Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 554-1440

Westminster Pantry
47 Jefferson SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 456-6115

Grand Rapids Spanish SDA Church
700 Burton St. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 243-3405

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
510 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 241-3315

First CRC
650 Bates St. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 452-4370

Addie's Pantry (Central Reform Church)
10 College NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 456-1773

First Community AME
500 James Ave SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-0151

Kentwood Community Church
1200 60th St. SE,
Kentwood MI, 49508
(616) 455-1740

Messiah Senior Food Pantry
513 Henry St Se,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 235-0455

Belknap Commons
751 Lafayette Ave. NE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49503
(616) 391-3916

Belknap Area Food Pantry/Spectrum Health
751 Lafayette Ave NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Clancy Street Ministries
940 Clancy Ave. NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 235-2195

Millbrook Christian Reformed Church
3661 Poinsettia Ave SE,
Grand Rapids,MI 49508
(616)243-2829

True Light Baptist Church
900 Thomas St. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 247-8072

St. Alphonsus Food and Clothing Center
205 Carrier St. NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 913-4415

St. Alphonus Food Pantry
224 Carrier NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 451-4230

North End Community Ministries - Plainfield UM Church
214 Spencer NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 454-1097

Southside Church of Christ
1304 36th St. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 452-8017

Berean Baptist Church
1574 Coit Ave. NE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49505
(616) 363-9824

Baxter Community Center
935 Baxter SE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49506
(616) 456-8593

Neland Ave. CRC
940 Neland Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49507
(616) 245-0669

Sherman Street Church Food Truck
1000 Sherman St SE, Grand Rapids MI, 49506
(616) 745-7485

Sherman Street Christian Church
1000 Sherman St. SE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49506
(616) 452-7034

New Faith Temple COGIC
1701 Kalamazoo Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids MI, 49507
(616) 245-6378

Kentwood Christian Church
5841 Kalamazoo Ave SE,
Kentwood, MI 49508
(616) 455-1510

Adams Park/Boston Square CRC
1440 Fuller Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 241-1245

Mamrelund Lutheran Church
4085 Lutheran Church Rd.,
Kent City, MI 49330
(616) 887-8873

House of Prayer Ministry
1048 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 774-3179

Brookside Christian Reformed Church
3600 Kalamazoo S.E.,
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 452-3191

Earnest Prayer Center
4248 Kalamazoo Ave. SE,
Suite A,
Kentwood MI, 49508
(616) 726-2833

Cedar Springs UMC
140 S Main Street,
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-1140

John Knox Pantry
4150 Kalmazoo Ave ,
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 455-9411

East Congregational U.C.C.
1005 Giddings SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 245-0578

Peace Lutheran Church
1225 12 Mile Rd. NW,
Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 887- 9417

Emmanuel Baptist Church Food Pantry
155 Seven Mile Road,
Comstock Park, MI 49321
(616) 647-4088

Coopersville Cares
180 68th Ave,
Coopersville, MI 49404
(616) 997-8602

Remembrance Church Food Pantry
4575 Remembrance Rd NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
(616) 453-7700

Vineyard North Church
4700 East Beltline Ave NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 365-0303

North Kent Service Center
10075 Northland Dr.,
Rockford, MI 49315
(616) 878-6000

Rockford American Legion Post 102 - Mobile Pantry
330 Rockford Park Dr.,
Rockford. MI 49341
(616) 866-2001

Telamon Corporation – Sparta Office
1495 10 Mile Rd.,
Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 520-4620
(616) 520-4616 – Alternative

Telamon Corporation – Holland
121 Clover St.,
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 396-5160

Blue Lake Community Church
10981 Blue Lake Rd.,
Holton, MI 49425
(231) 894-9650

Fifth Reformed Church
2330 Holton Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49445
(231) 744-4781

Apostolic Church Of God
1163 Center St.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 777-4728

Wolf Lake United Methodist
370 Vista Terrace,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 788-3262

Abundant Life Tabernacle
3445 S Dangl Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 777-3429

Fruitport Congregational Church
8th Ave & Park St.,
Fruitport, MI 49415
(231) 865-3551

Freddie Townsend Action Center
313 Jackson Ave,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 722-7608

West Michigan Veterans
165 E Apple Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 722-3499

Catholic Charities West Michigan - Lakeshore
1095 3rd St.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 726-4735

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches
1095 Third St.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 727-6000

Muskegon Rescue Mission
400 W Laketon Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 727-6090

Calvary Church Food Pantry
1080 S. Quarterline Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(888) 822-4632

Shiloh Tabernacle Pantry
460 E Tyler Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49445
(231) 766-2338

Central Assembly Of God
896 Home St.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 777-3938

WIC
209 E Apple Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 724-1281

Love INC Word of Hope Church
284 North 3rd Ave,
Fruitport, MI 49415
(231) 865-3637

Loaves & Fishes
1095 Third Street,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 726-5341

Fruitport Congregational Church
8th Ave & Park St.,
Fruitport, MI 49415
(231) 865-3551

House Of Judah Full Gospel Baptist Church
2640 Peck St,
Muskegon MI, 49444
(231) 343-1585

Oak Crest Church Of God
1540 Leonard Ave,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 773-1220

Salvation Army Emergency Services
1221 Shonat St.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 773-3284

Helping Hands
210 Edgerton,
Howard City, MI 49329
(231) 937-5177

Northside Bible
1937 Whitehall Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49445
(231) 744-4040

Upper Room Ministries
410 S. Getty,
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444
(231) 773-1310

Catholic Charities West Michigan
1095 Third Street,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 726-5341

Samuel Lutheran
540 Houston Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 722-7308

Sacred Heart Church
150 E Summit Ave,
Muskegon MI, 49444
(231) 733-2440

Mission For Area People
2500 Jefferson St.,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 733-9672

Hope Lighthouse Pantry
2731 Peck St.,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 722-4673

Hesperia Community Food Pantry
34 Hoskins,
Hesperia, MI 49421
(231) 854-5345

Christ Temple Church
412 E Sherman Blvd,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 733-4745

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1132 W Southern Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 722-6565

Sullivan Community Church
3951 Barnes Rd.,
Ravenna,MI 49451
(231) 788-5894

Fruitland Evangelical Lutheran Church
4283 Weber Rd.,
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 766-3871

Kandu Island 3rd Meal Pantry
3003 N Garfield Rd,
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 932-1590

Salvation Army – Mason/Oceana
114-116 East Melendy,
Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 843-3711

Sullivan Community Church
3951 Barnes Rd.,
Ravenna, MI 49451
(231) 788-5894

West Shore Missionary Church
1430 Hendrick Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 798-2131

Abundant Life Tabernacle
3445 S Dangl Rd.,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 777-3429

Sacred Heart Church
150 E Summit Ave,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 733-2440

Upper Room Ministries
410 S. Getty, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444
(231) 773-1310

Outpouring Worship Center
11811 Heights Ravenna Rd.,
Ravenna, MI 49451
(231) 853-2069

Hope Lighthouse Pantry
2731 Peck St.,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 722-4673

House Of Judah Full Gospel Baptist Church
2640 Peck St,
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 343-1585

Grant Wesleyan Church
688 W 112th Street,
Grant, MI 49327
(231) 834-7222

Love INC Newaygo County
11 W. 96th St.,
Grant MI, 49327
(231) 652-4099

TrueNorth Food Pantry
6308 S Warner Ave,
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 924-0641

Fremont United Methodist Church
351 Butterfield St.,
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 914-0030

Outpouring Worship Center
11811 Heights Ravenna Rd.,
Ravenna, MI 49451
(231) 853-2069

Cornerstone Free Methodist Church
8833 Holton Rd.,
Holton, MI 49425
(231) 821-0496

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1896 Rogers Rd.,
Grawn, MI 49637
(231) 276-6372

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
2804 Benzie Hwy,
Benzonia, MI 49616
(231) 882-9544

Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaleva
14575 Wuoski Ave.,
Kaleva, MI 49645
(231) 362-3592

Manistee County Council on Aging
457 River St.,
Manisteee, MI 4966
(231) 723-6477

Love Inc. Of Muskegon County
2735 E. Apple Ave.,
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 777-3905 ext. 8

Handfuls of Purpose/Edgetts Wesleyan Church
3446 N. Raymond Rd.,
Lutheran, MI 49656
(231) 797-5124

Benzie Food Partners
10907 Main St.,
Honor, MI 49640
(231) 325-2936

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union St,
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 947-4620

St. Gregory – Our Lady of Fatima Parish
316 S Peach Ave,
Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-2660

West Golden Wesleyan Church
2752 North 34th Ave.,
Mears, MI 49436
(231) 873-0581

New Hope Community Church
244 S. 79th Ave.,
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-0536

Trinity Lutheran Church
5631 W. Stony Lake Rd.,
New Era, MI 49446
(231) 861-4059

Hesperia/Ferry United Methodist Church
187 E. South Ave.,
Hesperia, MI 49421
(231) 854-5345

Eastside Community Action Agency
1001 Dakin Street,
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 853-0414

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church
1001 Dakin Street,
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 853-9897

Haven House
121 Whitehills Drive,
East Lansing, MI 48826
(517) 337-2731

Society Of Saint Vincent Depaul - Saint John's Student Paris
327 M.A.C. Ave.,
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 337-9778

City Of Lansing - Office Of The Mayor
124 West Michigan,
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-4477

Northwest Initiative
530 West Ionia Street,
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 999-2894

Capital Area Center For Independent Living
2812 North Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 999-2760

Holmes Road Church Of Christ
321 East Holmes Road,
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 882-8105

Ingham County Food Bank
5303 South Cedar,
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-4357

Lakeside Chapel
5800 Park Lake Road,
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-6291

Sparrow Clinton Memorial Hospital Foundation - Bath Community
5959 Park Lake Road,
Bath, MI 48808
(989) 227-3396

Redeemer United Methodist Church
13980 Shavey Road,
Dewitt, MI 48820
(517) 669-3430

First Presbyterian Church Of Dimondale
162 North Bridge Street,
Dimondale, MI 48821
(517) 646-6183

Capital Area Community Services - Rural Ingham Service Center
407 North Cedar Street,
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 676-1065

Grand Ledge Seventh Day Adventist Community Service Center
4980 Burt Avenue,
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-4348

Williamston Food Bank
439 East Church Street,
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 655-3562

Laingsburg Co- Op Food Bank
210 N. Crum Street,
Laingsburg, MI 48848
(517) 651-5531

Potterville United Methodist Church
105 North Church Street,
Potterville, MI 48876
(517) 645-7701

City Of Perry
203 W. Polly Street,
Perry, MI 48872
(517) 625-6155

Dansville Clothing And Food Bank
1361 East Mason Street,
Dansville, MI 48819
(517) 623-0392

Capital Area Community Services - Clinton Service Center
1001 South Oakland Street,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-6702

Webberville Food Bank
119 West Grand River,
Webberville, MI 48892
(517) 521-3984

Beacon Of Hope Family Care Center
401 South Swegles Street,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(866) 604-6447

Mount Hope Saint John's Family Church
101 West Cass Street,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 227-5366

Heart And Hands
9220 Kinneville Road,
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 663-7104

First Congregational Church - St. Johns Baby Pantry
100 Maple Street,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 227-9000

Saint Vincent Depaul Store - Clinton County
213 North Clinton Avenue,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-8852

Salvation Army - Knights Of Columbus Hall
1108 North US Highway 27,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-1225

Charlotte Assembly Of God
1100 East Clinton Trail,
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-0649

Society Of Saint Vincent Depaul - Saint Mary's Of Charlotte
812 Saint Mary Boulevard,
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-4319 ext.26

Helping Hands
600 South Cochran,
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 541-2010

Leslie Outreach
614 Mill Street,
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-5814

Epic-A Community Church
1455 E. Grand River Ave,
Portland, MI 48875
(517) 647-7750

Portland Community Food Bank
144 Kent St.,
Portland, MI 48875
(517) 647-4004

Family Impact Center
165 North Fowlerville Road,
Fowlerville, MI 48836
(517) 223-4428

Trinity United Methodist Church Of Owosso - Father's Cupboard
720 S. Shiawassee Street,
Owosso, MI 48867
(989) 723-2664

Bancroft Congregational Church
215 S. Shiawassee Street,
Bancroft, MI 48414
(989) 634-5724

Saint Vincent De Paul Owosso
111 N. Howell Street,
Owosso, MI 48867
(989) 723-4277

Grayling Elementary
6470 Manistee,
Frederic, MI 49733
(989) 348-6137

Crawford County COA
308 Lawndale,
Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-7123

Crawford County Help Center
300 Huron St.,
Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-6046

Holy Cross Children – Kenquest
3951 Jones Lake Rd., Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-5922

Central Wesleyan Church
119 N. Webster St.,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 787-0081

City of Zion
1275 Wayne Street,
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 789-7910

St. Vincent de Paul
711 Francis St.,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 783-1295

St. Vincent de Paul
717 N. Waterloo St.,
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 782-6990

St. Vincent de Paul
301 S. Mechanic St.,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 788-3424

Salvation Army
806 E. Pearl St.,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 782-7185

Christ’s Kingdom Ministries
501 S. Elm St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 879-5680

First Evangelistic COGIC
1604 Francis St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 787-1480

Higby Street Church of Christ
706 S. Higby St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 784-5535

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1505 W. Michigan,
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 782-6081

St. John’s United Church of Christ
801 S. Mechanic St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 784-7580

Saint Vincent de Paul
606 S. Wisner,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 783-1295

Compassionate Ministries of Jackson County
3905 Clinton Road,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 782-7084

Cornerstone Christian Church
2395 W. High St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 782-1774

Jackson Community Food Pantry
701 Greenwood Ave.,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 982-1005

North Parma United Methodist Church
11970 Devereaux Rd.,
Parma, MI 49269
(517) 531-4054

Unified – HIV Health and Beyond
3075 Clark Road Suite 203,
Ypsilanti, MI 49201
(800) 578-2300

Brooklyn Food Pantry
171 Wamplers Lake Road,
Brooklyn, MI 49230
(517) 612-8771

Seventh Day Adventist Community Service
3600 County Farm Road,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 784-4538

Trinity Wesleyan Church
620 Robinson Road,
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 750-2654 ext. 15

Harmony Baptist Church
6475 Ann Arbor Rd.,
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 764-0342

Trinity Lutheran Church – Hillsdale
69 Griswold St.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3639

Litchfield United Methodist Church
160 Marshall St.,
Litchfield, MI 49252
(517) 542-3366

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
11 N. Broad St.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3305 ext. 33

Hillsdale Baptist Church
2211 W. Bacon St.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 439-9711

Salvation Army – Hillsdale
160 E. Bacon St.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437- 0559

Lifeline Food Pantry
5051 W. Montgomery Rd.,
Camden, MI 49232
(517) 368-5414

City Rescue Mission Of Lansing - Men's Shelter and Public Di
613 East Michigan Avenue,
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 485-0145

Free Way Church
28900 B Drive North,
Albion, MI 49224
(517) 629-9132

Albion Interfaith Ministries
114 W. Erie St.,
Albion, MI 49224
(517) 629-5260

EL Bethel Pentecostal Church of God
1661 Hudson Rd.,
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3639

First Church of Christ
107 W. Street,
Waldron, MI 49288
(517) 286-6299

Manitou Road Baptist Church
175 Manitou Road
Manitou Beach, MI 49253
(517) 547-5516

Saint Mary on the Lake Catholic Church
450 Manitou Road
Manitou Beach, MI 49253
(517) 547-7496

New Hope Worship Center Church
13600 28 Mile Road,
Albion, MI 49224
(517) 629-4862

Addison Congregational Church
202 South Talbot Street
Addison, MI 49220
(517) 547-5527

Saint Vincent de Paul – St. Rita Catholic Church
10516 Hayes Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 592-3770 ext. 41

Hudson Ministerial Association Ministerial Association Food Pantry
211 West Mechanic Street
Hudson, MI 49247
(517) 448-3811

Adrian First Church of the Nazarene
50 Industrial Court
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1579

Family Workship Center of Adrian
1120 East Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 417-1003

Salvation Army - Lenawee
217 West Church Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 265-2038

Daily Bread of Lenawee
302 South Tecumseh Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-0937

Damascus Road
301 South Tecumseh Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 265-1900

Neighbors of Hope – Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry
410 East Maumee Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 759-4421

Saint Vincent de Paul – Saint Joseph Church Conference Lenawee
415 Ormsby Street
Saint Joseph Church
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 759-9296

New Song Community Church
5211 South Occidental Hwy
Tecumseh, MI 49286
(517) 423-3676

Tecumseh Church of the Nazarene
1001 North Union Street
Tecumseh, MI 49286
(517) 423-4960

Tecumseh Service Club
9466 Stone Highway
Tecumseh, MI 49286
(517) 423-3434 Intake

Family Worship Center of Adrian
1120 East Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 417-1003

St. Mary's Catholic Church
219 S State St,
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 683-5087

Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries - Lakeview
Seven South 20th Street
Battle Creek, MI 4901

Eleanor's pantry
221 Drew St.,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 415-0444

Lawrence United Methodist Church
122 S Exchange St,
Lawrence, MI 49064
(269) 674-8381

Gobles Kendall Area Ministerial Assoc. (GKAMA)
210 E. Exchange St.,
Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4882

Living Water Food Pantry
7734 Paw Paw Ave,
Watervliet, MI 49098
(269) 463-8280

Christian Neighbors
282 12th Street,
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-4166

Love In the Name of Christ of NW Allegan Co.
943 - 56th St.,
Pullman, MI 49450
(269) 236-6295

The River Church - Mobile
1652 Lincoln Rd,
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-8593

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
1753 Union Ave, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-2670

Holy Family Healthcare
301 N. Center St.,
Hartford, MI 49057
(269) 621-0011

Emergency Care Network – Centerville
305 East Main St.,
Centerville, MI 49032
(269) 467-8645

TrueNorth Community Services
6308 S. Warner Ave.,
Fremont, MI 49412
(800) 379-0221

Woodland Shores Baptist Church and Caring Cupboard Pantry
3555 Shawnee Rd.,
Bridgman, MI 49106
(269) 465-4673

Seventh Day Adventist Church
2075 Highland Ave,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-8872

Road to Hope Food Pantry
3800 Niles Road,
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 429-1106

Salvation Army – Benton Harbor Corps
233 Michigan,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 927-1353

Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency
331 Miller St.,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-9077

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church
1753 Union Ave.,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-2670

Watervliet Free Methodist Church
7734 Paw Paw Ave.,
Watervliet, MI 49098
(269) 463-8280

Valley Family Church
2500 Vincent Ave
Portage, MI 49024
(269) 324-5599

Faith Victory Church
13369 N. Main St.,
Buchanan, MI 49107
(269) 695-1091

Salvation Army – Niles Corps
424 N. 15th St.,
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 684-2660

Helping Hands of Cass County
130 S. Broadway St.,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-8104

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
24832 US 12 East,
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
(269) 699-5870 ext. 121

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
306 Courtland St.,
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 782-7033

Marcellus United Methodist Church
197 W. Main,
Marcellus, MI 49067
(269) 646-5801

Gobles- Kendall Area Ministerial Association Food Pantry
210 E. Exchange St.,
Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4882

Ladders of Hope
717 E. Main St,
Fennville, MI 49408
(269) 455-9452 |

Emergency Care Network – Colon
132 North Blackston Ave.,
Colon, MI 49040
(269) 423-3371

Hartford United Methodist Church
425 E. Main St.,
Hartford, MI 49057
(269) 621-4103

Decatur Human Services
102 S. Phelps St.,
Decatur, MI 49045
(269) 423-6474

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
901 Portage St.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 343-3663

Dream Center
1122 Portage St.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 382-4760

Kalamazoo Deacon's Conference
1010 N. Westnedge Ave.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 344-6119

Salvation Army – Kalamazoo Citadel Corps
1700 S. Burdick St.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 344-6119

South County Community Services
105 S. Kalamazoo St.,
Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 649-2901

Salvation Army – St. Joseph
105 N. Fourth St.,
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-3805

Emergency Care Network – Constantine
185 W. Fifth St.,
Constantine, MI 49042
(269) 435-9785

Weidman United Methodist Church
3200 N. Woodruff,
Weidman, MI
(989) 644-3148

Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries - Urbandale
3515 West Michigan Avenue
Springfield, MI 49037

Crossroads Church and Ministries
717 US Highway 27 North,
Marshall, MI 49068
(269) 781- 9094

Dexter Lake Sparrow's Nest
1555 E. Michigan Ave.,
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 986-8026

Battle Creek First Church of the Nazarene
12866 Beadle Lake Rd,
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 979- 4565

Tri-County Labor Agency
120 N. Raymond Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269) 962-2185

Salvation Army – Calhoun County
400 Capital Ave NE,
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 966-4162 ext. 23

Kendall Street Pantry
175 S. Kendall St.,
Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269) 964-3663

Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries
1391 E. Michigan Ave.,
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 719-2422

Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries - Franklin
111 East Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries - Parkway
380 Truth Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49037

Ann Arbor Community Center
625 N. Main St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-3128

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
815 Taylor St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 662-4462

Saint Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church
2309 Packard St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-2449

Bryant Community Center
3 W. Eden Court,
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 477-0292

Holy Trinity Student Center
411 Florence St.,
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 483-3360

Hope Medical Clinic
454 Harriet St.,
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 484-2989

SOS Community Services
114 N. River St.,
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 484-5413

Saint Mary's Church of Pinckney
10601 Dexter Pinckney Rd.,
Pinckney, MI 48169
(734) 878-3161

Help's on the Way
5358 S. Beech Daly Rd.,
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
(313) 908-7104

Crossroads of Michigan
2424 W. Grand Blvd.,
Detroit, MI 48208
(313) 831-2000

Capuchin Soup Kitchen
6333 Medbury St.,
Detroit, MI 48211
(313) 925-0514

Crossroads of Michigan
21230 Moross,
Detroit, MI 48236
(313) 822-5200

Yad Ezra
2850 West Eleven Mile Road
Berkley, MI 48072
(248) 548-3663

Perfecting Community Development Corporation
7616 East Nevada Street
Detroit, MI 48234
(586) 323-7066

Zion Lutheran Church
8307 Memorial Highway
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267
(734) 856-2921

Arab-American and Chaldean Council
62 West Seven Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48203
(313) 369-3100

Monroe County Opportunity Program
1140 South Telegraph Road
Monroe, MI 4816
(734) 241-2775 ext. 222

Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry
25670 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 442-0031

Salvation Army – Eastern Michigan
100 Arbana Dr.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 668-8353

Zaman International
26091 Trowbridge Street
Inkster, MI 48141
(313) 551-3994
(313) 429-1245 Intake

Lightouse Home Mission
34033 Palmer Road
Full Gospel Temple
Westland, MI 48186-4680
(734) 326-3885
Food Pantry Mon or Wed only

The Midwest's premier Hispanic center undertaking research on issues of relevance to the Hispanic community in the social sciences and economic and community development. JSRI is a unit of University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University.