

ORGANIZATION: United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.

TITLE OF PROJECT: Midwest Regional Migrant Farmworker AIDS Education and Prevention Program

ADDRESS: 809 West Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

CONTACT PERSON: Lupe Martinez, Executive Director
Mary Ann Borman, Project Coordinator

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (414) 671-5700

PROJECT AWARD: \$ 186,547.

FUNDING SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control, National AIDS Information and Education Program

TARGET POPULATION: Migrant farmworkers in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. (UMOS), is a non-profit social service agency that provides employment and training as well as supportive services to migrants and seasonal farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Wisconsin. UMOS has 11 offices throughout the State of Wisconsin and is the lead agency in a five-state consortium. The other statewide agencies participating in this regional effort are Minnesota Migrant Council, Nebraska Association of Farmworkers, Illinois Migrant Council and Michigan Economics for Human Development.

The program will provide HIV/AIDS education/prevention information on a one-to-one and group basis to approximately 30,000 mid-continent migrant stream farmworkers. The goals of the five year project are to:

1. Disseminate culturally sensitive HIV/AIDS prevention information;
2. Survey, coordinate and network with existing minority migrant serving agencies and coalitions to provide HIV/AIDS prevention education services in order to avoid duplication.

Culturally sensitive and language appropriate brochures, posters and audio-visual materials will be provided to outreach staff to disseminate materials to the migrant camps in this five-state region. Bilingual volunteers will be trained and provided to a statewide AIDS hotline. Referrals to convenient sites to provide HIV testing and counseling services on a confidential cost-free basis will be offered. AIDS regional workshops for all migrant serving agency personnel will be provided to enhance the spiraling effect of training trainees. A coordinated effort with the State Division of Health AIDS Prevention will be developed to consolidate activities and share resources.

It is through the diversification of this education program to the migrant farmworker that a long-term behavioral change is anticipated.

- A one hour AIDS/HIV IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY educational outreach program presentation.
- Technical assistance and consultation on Hispanic and migrant oriented AIDS/HIV program, materials and curriculum planning and development; workshop and seminar development.
- Resource and referral information on culturally sensitive, language appropriate AIDS education supplies, materials and resources.
- A resource and lending library of culturally sensitive, bilingual films, videos, books, pamphlets, brochures, which have been reviewed and recommended for targeted audiences. Bibliography available upon request.

FUTURE CONSORTIUM ACTIVITIES

Requests to join the Consortium have been received from other midwestern states serving migrants. Additional funding is being sought to accommodate these requests. Until funding is available, the Consortium has agreed to adopt a sister state program in a limited number of unfunded states. Technical assistance, consultation and resources will be provided to the "sister" states by the Consortium member states.

In addition to the needs of the Hispanic migrant community there is an overwhelming need to provide AIDS/HIV prevention outreach to the general Hispanic population as well. Culturally sensitive, bilingual programs targeted to reducing high-risk behaviors need to be developed and implemented within the Hispanic community. Funding from public and private sources is being developed on a state-by-state and Consortium level to initiate those programs within the Consortium state's Hispanic communities.

Midwest regional migrant farmworker AIDS education & prevention consortium

Midwest Regional Migrant Farmworker AIDS Education & Preve

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Consortium Members

Minnesota Migrant Council
P.O. Box 1231
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302
(612) 253-7010
220 South Roberts St. #104
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
(612) 222-2121 (project site)

Nebraska Association of Farmworkers, Inc.
P.O. Box 1459
North Platte, Nebraska 69103
(308) 534-2630

Illinois Migrant Council
202 South State St. - 15th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 663-1522

Michigan Economics for Human Development
3186 Pine Tree Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
(517) 394-4110

For further information on the Consortium or its services, contact the

MIDWEST REGIONAL MIGRANT FARMWORKERS AIDS EDUCATION & PREVENTION CONSORTIUM

c/o United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.
809 West Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 671-5700

MIDWEST REGIONAL MIGRANT FARMWORKER AIDS EDUCATION & PREVENTION CONSORTIUM



A bilingual, culturally sensitive AIDS prevention and education program for migrant farmworkers in

- Wisconsin
- Illinois
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Nebraska
- Michigan

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control, through a grant to United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., Wisconsin

AIDS IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

AIDS/HIV has had a disproportionate effect on the Hispanic population. While Hispanics comprise approximately 8.1% of the population in the United States, they have accounted for between 13-17% of all AIDS cases since 1981. 1 out of 4 of all AIDS cases is a Hispanic child; 1 in 5 is a Hispanic youth. Hispanic women account for 19% of all cases involving women. More than 39% of all AIDS cases in Hispanics are linked to IV drug usage; almost half (43%) of the cases in males are linked to homosexual/bisexual contact. It is obvious that the AIDS virus is a serious threat to the Hispanic community.

AIDS EDUCATION IN THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY

As a whole, the Hispanic migrant farmworker population is part of the lower socio-economic strata and reflects the problems inherent to this population such as: sub-standard housing, sanitation, water supplies and health care. Work related hazards are common and include equipment related accidents, skin, digestive, respiratory and neurological conditions caused by prolonged contact with toxic chemicals and pesticides. Coupled with the cultural and language barriers (75% of the workers only speak Spanish), the transient nature of the farmworker population renders the traditional provision of AIDS/HIV education and prevention information useless. It is evident that a targeted approach is needed to reach this population; one designed to meet the cultural, socio-economic, educational and language needs of the migrants.

WHAT IS THE CONSORTIUM?

A group of migrant support agencies currently providing services to the midwestern stream migrants, led by United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., Wisconsin, has formed a consortium to deliver AIDS/HIV education and prevention services to this population. The agencies, as individual service providers, have a long term record of providing migrant education, advocacy and support services. They are trusted and respected by the migrant community and the employers. Consequently, they are the logical source for the delivery of a migrant AIDS education program.

The Consortium obtained funding from the Centers for Disease Control, Minority AIDS Grant Program in October of 1988. The group currently is comprised of the following agencies, with United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., providing the coordination and administration for the consortium in addition to its own statewide project: Minnesota Migrant Council (providing services for Minnesota and North Dakota), Illinois Migrant Council, Nebraska Association of Farmworkers, Inc. and Michigan Economics for Human Development. Each state project is coordinated by an AIDS education specialist; additional staff in some states are provided through coordination with state and local funding sources.

WHAT DOES THE CONSORTIUM PROVIDE?

The delivery of AIDS education services varies from state to state based on the needs of the migrant population. Under the Consortium umbrella each state-wide Migrant AIDS Project provides most or all of the following services to migrant families:

- culturally sensitive, bilingual group and individual AIDS/HIV education, prevention and intervention outreach services - in the migrant camps, worksites, schools and churches.
- Bilingual AIDS materials geared to the comprehension and reading level of the targeted audience; i.e. adults, adolescents and children.
- Bilingual AIDS/HIV training to community agency staff providing support and resource services to the migrant community.
- Community education and outreach programs on AIDS/HIV in the Hispanic community.
- Bilingual AIDS hot line volunteer training and/or placement.
- AIDS/HIV resource and referral information, including AIDS/HIV test site referrals and follow through if requested.

The Consortium as a whole offers the following AIDS related services:

- A comprehensive AIDS/HIV Training Guide for Hispanic Migrant Farmworkers, available in English and Spanish.
- Bilingual AIDS/HIV education materials and brochures designed specifically for the migrant farmworker population.
- A four hour training session in the use of the training guide, in English or Spanish.
- A six hour AIDS/HIV basic training session in English/Spanish.