

# THE QUARTERLY HARVEST

MARCH 2023, ISSUE X

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Hello and welcome to our newsletter!

The planting season will soon begin and, as farmworkers and their families prepare to travel to Minnesota and North Dakota for work, the AWP is excited to meet them and provide education about their labor rights. We hope that all farmworkers have safe travels!

Read on to learn about an important opportunity for farmworkers to receive a one-time \$600 payment and to learn more about our 2022 outreach success. Thank you, as always, for being with us!

**Griselt Andrade,**  
**AWP Lead Attorney**

## THE FARM & FOOD WORKERS RELIEF (FFWR) PAYMENT

There is an exciting development for farmworkers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now disbursing a one-time payment of \$600 to individual farmworkers (and meatpackers) that worked in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$600 goes a long way to help, so we are sure you are wondering about how to apply for this payment. First, we will discuss who qualifies. Second, we will talk about what documentation you will need. Finally, we will explain how you can apply for the payment. Every individual family member who meets the eligibility criteria can apply for the payment.

**Who:** The one-time payment of \$600 will be available to qualifying frontline farmworkers and meatpacking workers for expenses incurred in the United States due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This one-time payment will be available to eligible individuals who worked between January 27, 2020 and May 11, 2023.

### ***Proof of Employment***

You will need to provide documentation to prove you performed eligible work. Examples include:

- Paystubs;
- W-2 or 1099 tax form;
- Bank records showing direct deposit;
- Letter offering employment;
- Federal or state income tax statement;
- Written attestations; and
- Photo of worker doing agricultural work.

You can ask the organization you are applying through for other available options.

### ***Proof of Identity***

You will need to provide proof of your identity. It is important to note **your immigration status does not matter.**

Acceptable forms of identification include:

- Any state-issued ID card or Driver's License;
- A passport from any country;
- An international identification document;
- A U.S. green card
- A school or work identification card;
- An H-2A/H-2B visa; and
- A consular registration.

You can ask the organization you are applying through for other available options.

### ***How to Apply***

Apply by September 30th, 2024.

- **Telephone (MN & ND):**

UFW Hotline: 1-877-881-8281.

Monday – Friday, 11am - 9pm & Sunday, 11am - 7pm.

- **Phone/Email(ND-only):**

Hispanic Federation: 1-866-432-9832,

FFWR@HispanicFederation.org.

- **Online/Phone (MN-only):**

UMOS, Inc., 1-833-758-2004.

<https://tinyurl.com/UMOS-EN>.

- **In-person (MN & ND):**

12 sites through Tri-Valley

Opportunity Council, Inc. Call 1-800-584-7020 to determine the best location to apply.

## **BRINGING JUSTICE TO AGRICULTURAL WORKERS: SUMMARY OF 2022 OUTREACH**

In-person outreach is a major part of the AWP's strategy to educate agricultural workers about their legal rights. This involves extensive travel throughout Minnesota and North Dakota during the spring, summer, and fall months. Finding agricultural workers at their homes and at community events, the AWP team provides legal rights information to workers and then can represent eligible workers with claims for unpaid wages or overtime, broken contracts, housing conditions, human trafficking, among other issues.

In 2022, the AWP team:

- Spoke with 589 agricultural workers about their legal rights.
- Opened 61 new cases to advise and represent agricultural workers.
- Visited 536 housing sites to safely speak with workers.
- Distributed 2,500+ legal rights calendars to workers and community members.

We look forward to seeing you on the road in 2023!



CHSI has been promoting health in its community since 1973 and is a partner of the Agricultural Worker Project to serve agricultural workers. It is CHSI's mission to prevent and treat a wide range of diseases, but they strive to instill health in their beloved communities. CHSI assists with medical services, dental, insurance enrollment, behavioral health, translation/interpretation, filling prescriptions, and domestic violence advocacy. Patients truly have a voice in guiding and directing delivered services. Due to the continuous growth and need for services, CHSI has established five year-round locations in Moorhead, Crookston, Rochester, and Willmar, MN; and Grafton, ND.

CHSI deploys mobile units to farms, local restaurants, churches, employers or any location where patients do not have transportation or resources to travel. Contact CHSI at 1-800-842-8693 to learn more about their services.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SAM

Samuel Crary, AWP Paralegal/Outreach Worker  
Joined December 2022



*Staff pictured: Sam Crary*

I am happy to be the most recent addition to the AWP staff in St. Paul. I joined in the last months of 2022 and look forward to a productive outreach season and year ahead! I chose to work for SMRLS because of its mission-oriented culture. I am excited to be out of college and in the workforce. I enjoy the collaborative environment fostered by staff at the organization, as well as the sense that the work done here makes an impact for individuals in their lives.

Outside of work, I spend most of my free time fly fishing and exploring public land in Minnesota and the surrounding area.

## CONTACT THE AWP



Intake line: 1-800-652-9733



Call or send a text/WhatsApp: 507-475-0804  
(Minnesota) or 701-212-2642 (North Dakota)



Email: [awp@smrls.org](mailto:awp@smrls.org)



[Fb.com/AgWProject](https://fb.com/AgWProject)



Hours: Monday–Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



We speak English and Spanish and  
have interpreters available in other  
languages.

## ABOUT THE AWP

Are you working or have you recently worked in agriculture in Minnesota or North Dakota? Do you have a legal question or concern related to that work? If so, SMRLS' Agricultural Worker Project may be able to help. We assist agricultural workers with employment-related legal issues and are committed to improving the working and living conditions of agricultural workers in Minnesota and North Dakota.