

December 15, 2020

Megan Patterson  
Maine Board of Pesticides Control  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Ms. Patterson,

The Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) and Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) would like to provide an update to and a request for support from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control of a continued collaborative effort to deliver EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) education to Maine's farmworkers during the 2021 harvest season.

The 2020 season brought unique challenges for our programs in the provision of providing the Worker Protection Standard training to farmworkers across the state. In order to address concerns related to the spread of COVID-19, new strategies and protocols were put in place so that these vital occupational health trainings could continue. MMHP recruited and hired a bilingual English/Spanish Community Health Worker and trained a current Community Health Worker who speaks Haitian Creole, English and Spanish to be ready to provide trainings during the 2020 season. While no growers with Creole-speaking crews accessed the services this year we are pleased to be prepared to offer the training through a native-speaker of the language. Protocols were developed to ensure best practices for infection control including outdoor trainings of groups smaller than 50 workers, wearing masks, distancing between participants and trainer and the and provision of pens for workers to keep after completing pre-tests and post-tests. We were willing to offer trainings through a zoom video connection (though none of the growers were open to this strategy as they felt they did not have the infrastructure or environment to facilitate the training on their end of a connection). While we were successful in designing a safe approach to providing trainings, many growers responded that they were adhering to quarantines for their workers and not allowing non-employees access to their crews. Those historic partners who denied the opportunity for us to train their workers expressed interest in collaborating with us in the future.

Despite the conditions, our Community Health Worker was able to offer training in the WPS to 123 farmworkers across Maine in addition to curricula from the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) on occupational safety. The table included here breaks down, by education topic, important outcomes in 2020 completed by this staff person.



Improving the health status of Maine's seasonal workers and their families by providing culturally appropriate care and services.

FWs trained in Worker Protection Standard	123
FWs trained in Take Home Exposure	123
Heat Stress Trainings	123

For 2021, the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) has committed \$4,500 to EMDC and MMHP in support of WPS training. EMDC and MMHP plan to use these funds to support the staff time for multilingual WPS and occupational health trainings to farmworkers across the state. We request from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control a contribution of \$6,432 which we would leverage with the funds from AFOP. This is a 20% increase over the previous funding request to accommodate the administrative overhead of managing the funds. The funding from the Board of Pesticides Control will be used to fund the staff person who provides WPS trainings; including both the hourly wage and the travel and lodging required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners. We request that the funding be made directly to MMHP.

We thank the Board for its past support and for considering this current proposal. To contact us about this request or our activities, please feel free to contact Liz Charles McGough ([echarles@mainemobile.org](mailto:echarles@mainemobile.org), 207-441-1633) or Chris Huh ([chuh@emdc.org](mailto:chuh@emdc.org), 207-610-1521). We look forward to meeting with the Board to discuss this opportunity.

Best Regards,

Elizabeth Charles McGough  
Director of Outreach and Deputy Director  
Maine Mobile Health Program

Christopher Huh, MPA  
Program Manager  
Farmworker Jobs Program  
Eastern Maine Development Corporation

**From:** [Elizabeth Charles](#)  
**To:** [Patterson, Megan L](#)  
**Cc:** [Christopher Huh](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Funding - 2021 Harvest Season  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:43:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[2020 Board of Pesticides Request.pdf](#)

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Dear Megan,

Please find attached a letter of request for funding from the Board of Pesticides Control to the Maine Mobile Health Program and Eastern Maine Development Corporation for training in the Worker Protection Standard during the 2021 season.

The attached letter provides an update on how we responded to training needs during the 2020 season in light of covid-19. I would also like to note that we are asking for an increase in funding to accommodate the administrative overhead associated with the funding. All of this detail is included in our letter and I'm happy to respond to any questions that you have.

Chris and I would be pleased to meet with the Board to discuss this funding opportunity.

Many thanks,

Liz Charles McGough  
Pronouns: she/her

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