



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

January 21, 2024

John T. Pietroski
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Pietroski,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) with a request for support from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control for a continued effort to deliver EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) education to Maine's farmworkers during the 2024 harvest season.

Throughout the 2023 season, the Maine Mobile Health Program worked to provide the Worker Protection Standard (PST) training to farmworkers across the state. The program trained a currently employed community health worker and also recruited a new trainer who was bilingual with the capacity to speak in Spanish and English. One highlight from the season included offering both WPS and Heat Stress trainings to all workers who participated in our sessions. MMHP is increasingly interested in promoting heat safety and looking for ways to pair that with ongoing pesticide safety trainings and other occupational safety trainings. We were also able to offer interpretation and health education in support of a Board of Pesticides investigation. For the second season in a row, we experienced a couple of last-minute cancelations from farms that limited the number of workers we could support. The challenging labor market also made it difficult for us to hire a trainer early in the season. However, training a current employee allowed us to complete our commitments for 2023 and start thinking about expanding more in 2024. Two new farms have already reached out to MMHP about training their workers next year.

Despite the challenges, our PST trainers were able to offer training on the WPS to 101 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 2023 completed by our trainers.

FWs trained in Worker Protection Standard	101
Heat Stress Trainings	101



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The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs awarded \$1,600 to MMHP in support of on-going WPS training in 2024. MMHP plans 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. The funding from the Board of Pesticides Control will be used to support the staff positions who provides WPS trainings; including both the hourly wage and the travel and lodging required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners, and the overhead of managing the grant and project. 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 connect with us about this request or our activities, please feel free to contact Hannah Miller (hmill@mainemobile.org, 207-441-1633).

All the best,

Hannah A. Miller

Hannah Miller
Director of Outreach
Maine Mobile Health Program