



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

February 11, 2026

Alexander R. Peacock
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Peacock,

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 2026 harvest season.

Throughout the 2025 season, the Maine Mobile Health Program worked to provide Pesticide Safety Training (PST) to farmworkers across the state. The program enrolled four staff as trainers, three who are bilingual in Spanish and English and one who is bilingual in Haitian Creole and English. This season we focused on expanding our collaborative efforts to reach more farmers and farmworkers, and to offer trainings directly in Haitian Creole. We trained workers at several vegetable farms and apple farms who had not received this training from MMHP in prior seasons. These workers shared how impactful it was to receive this training in a live format where the trainer was engaging, and the content was easily understandable. Similar to previous seasons, we experienced difficulties with farms continuing to hire fewer blueberry rakers as they increase their use of mechanized harvesting. The challenging labor market also made it difficult for us to hire trainers early in the season. Despite these challenges, our PST trainers were able to offer training to a broad audience of workers and successfully completed WPS training with 167 farmworkers across Maine. Our initial training goal for 2025 was 120 workers. Many of these sessions included material on heat stress and other occupational safety concerns.

Building on momentum from 2025, we plan to implement several new strategies in 2026 to increase our impact and ability to train more farmworkers. First, we



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plan to train more of our outreach staff on the material to increase access to trainers and offset concerns about the challenging labor market. Second, we plan to heavily promote our occupational safety trainings, especially those focused on pesticide safety and heat stress, to farm owners and managers to encourage increased participation. For example, we are conducting outreach at many farm-related events including the Maine Agricultural Trades Show and the Farmer to Farmer Conference. Finally, we intend to promote these trainings with farmworkers directly to encourage further engagement with the information. In total, our goal is to train a minimum of 250 farmworkers on WPS in 2026.

To achieve this goal, we request \$20,000 from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. In prior years MMHP has received funding from the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs to support this work, but due to changes in federal priorities this funding is no longer available. We seek support from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control to close this critical gap to ensure Maine's farmworkers continue to access this vital training in a manner that is accessible to them. Funding will be used to support the multilingual staff positions who provide WPS trainings; including both the hourly wage and the travel and lodging required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners statewide, and the overhead of managing the grant and project.

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 contact me at hmill@mainemobile.org or 207-441-1633.

All the best,

Hannah A Miller

Hannah Miller
Director of Outreach
Maine Mobile Health Program