

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee

Meeting details

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

Committee members present

- Michele Besso
- Jonathan DeVaney
- Michael Gempler
- Delia Peña
- Jeff Perrault
- Victoria Ruddy

Non-voting agency representatives

- Todd Phillips
- Uriel Iniguez

Committee members absent

- Ramon Torres
- Ignacio Marquez
- Rosalinda Guillen

ESD staff

- Craig Carroll
- Norma Chavez
- Alberto Isiordia
- Tamara Johnson
- Juan Martinez
- Dan Zeitlin

Summary

Meeting Recorded

This meeting was recorded and is available on https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/Ag-committee

Welcome and Introductions

Agricultural & Seasonal Workforce Services Director, Norma Chavez, welcomed everyone and asked Tamara Johnson to take roll.

Agenda

Norma Chavez reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions. (See Addendum I.)

Meeting Minutes

Recording timestamp 00:05:04

Norma Chavez requested that everyone review the meeting minutes for April 15, 2021 and provide their feedback. Jon DeVaney made a motion to approve April 15, 2021 minutes. Delia Pena seconded the motion. The April 15, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

ASWS Office Update

We are currently recruiting for four more compliance specialists to be located in Auburn, Kennewick, Walla Walla, and Omak. (See Addendum II.)

Recording timestamp 00:06:25

H-2A Application Data Report

Minutes

Recording timestamp 00:19:00

Recording timestamp 00:21:10

Recording timestamp 02:19:00

Recording timestamp 02:24:00

Norma Chavez reported on H-2A application data.

| Status of Applications | # of Applications | # of Workers Requested/ Labor Certifications* |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Received/Processed | 270 | 22,997 |
| Commenced | 202 | 19,838 |
| Withdrawn | 7 | 489 |

*The numbers reported are not reflective of the number of foreign workers that actually arrive in Washington State.

US DOL

Thomas Silva & Stephen Yim presented: *Vaccine Planning Update Agricultural Workers*. (See Addendum III.)

Report Recommendations Progress

| Alberto Isiordia presented: | Recording timestamp 01:09:10 |
|--|------------------------------|
| ETO, Create a Record WorkSourceWA.com registration | |
| Juan Martiez & Ana Alcala-Rodriguez presented: | Recording timestamp 01:24:40 |
| H-2A Progress & Performance (See Addendum IV.) | |
| L & I | |
| | |
| Ryan Allen presented: | Recording timestamp 01:44:40 |

DOH Updates

 Andy Cervantes, Liz Clark & Darius Basemore presented:
 Recording timestamp 01:57:00

 Agriculture & Food Production Workers Vaccine Operations Update (See Addendum III.)

Next Agenda Items

• ASWS and COVID-19 updates.

Public Comments

Adjourned

Dan Zeitlin thanked everyone for their continued active participation and for their commitment to this work, then ended the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

2021 Meetings

The next Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Advisory Committee meeting is on:

• June 17, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – WebEx Meeting

Addendums

ADDENDUM I.



AGENDA

Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services (ASWS) Advisory Committee Thursday, April 15, 2021 | 8:30 am – 10:30 am | WebEx

Agenda Items

| TIME | ТОРІС |
|----------|--|
| 8:30 am | Introductions Welcome from Dan Zeitlin, Director, ESD Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity Division & Norma Chavez, Director – Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services Agenda Review |
| 8:40 am | Approval of Meeting Minutes February 18, 2021 March 18, 2021 |
| 8:45 am | ASWS Office update – Norma Chavez |
| 8:50 am | FLC applications update – Norma Chavez |
| 8:55 am | Customer Experience Study – Norma Chavez |
| 9:05 am | Agriculture Workforce Dashboard – Colin Kirkmire, Gustavo Aviles, Josh Moll – ESD LMEA |
| 9:35 am | Report Recommendations Progress Faster Connection of workers & employers progress update – Juan Martinez & Ana Alcala-Rodriguez |
| 9:40 am | Break |
| 9:50 am | DOH Update – Todd Phillips • COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations – Andy Cervantes |
| 10:20 am | Closing Discussion • Next agenda items |
| 10:25 am | Public Comments |
| 10:30 am | Adjourn |

GROUND RULES

No side conversations | Phones on silent | Let people speak without interruption | Respect the opinion of others | Strive for understanding | Speak your mind | Strive for common ground | Assume good intent | Stay focused on task at hand and be willing to come back to the topic | Make sure everyone understands | Look out for each other | Take care of your own comfort | Ask for what you need

Minutes ADDENDUM II. Agricultural WorkforceDashboardColin KirkmireApril 15, 2021 Employment Security Department 1 COLUMN STATES and and Overview Current Ag. Workforce Report Process New Ag. Workforce Dashboard Process Dashboard features: Power Bl Interactive Increased transparency Built-in suppression logic 2



Dashboard Functionality

Pages:

- Covered Employment
- Estimated Stable & Variable
 Employment
- Annual Wages
- Hourly Wages
- Labor Shortages
- H-2A Applications

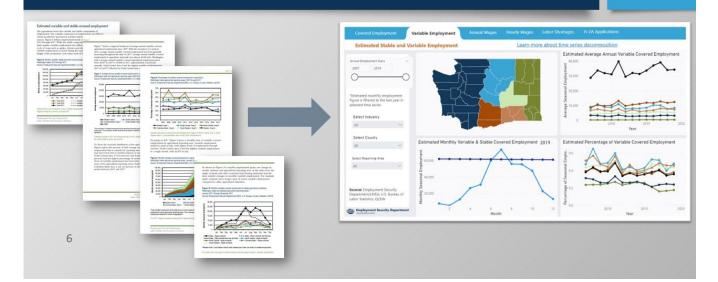
Drill Down to:

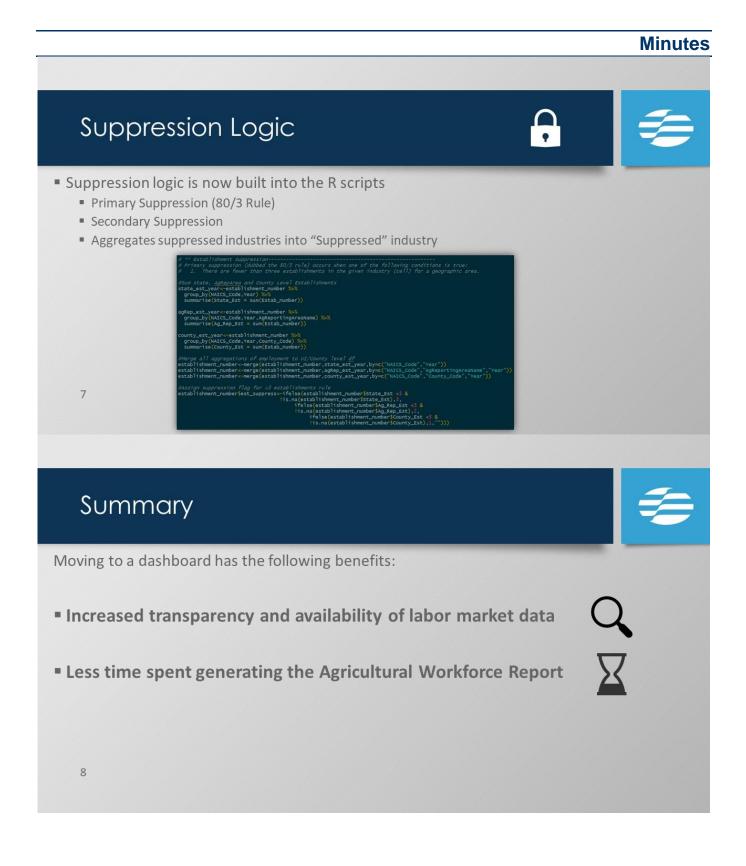
- Geography
 - State
 - Ag. Reporting Area
 - County
- NAICS
 - Subsector
 - Industry
- Year (2009-2019), updated annually

<u>.</u>

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Comparison:







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Average Annual Covered Agricultural Employment

- Users can select "subsector" (Crop Production) NAICS
- This subsets the "Industry" dropdown (Apple Orchards)
- Now we can see the counties with the highest (unsuppressed) covered Apple Orchard Employment in 2019
- Alternatively: (clear everything)
- Someone interested in agricultural employment in Yakima County could select that county from the map or the dropdown if they're unfamiliar with the geography
- And then order the Industries based on covered employment each year

Estimated Stable and Variable Agricultural Employment

- Again, Users can select "subsector" (Crop Production)
- This subsets the "Industry" dropdown (Other noncitrus fruit)
- We can select (Columbia Basin Area 4) for the Reporting area
- The bottom left shows the MONTHL VAIRABLE AND STABLE covered employment for 2019
- We can change the year in this monthly figure by moving the time slider
- If you want to learn more about time series decomposition there is a link located at the top of the page that describes the methodology
- The two figures at the right show estimated ANNUAL seasonal covered employment and the bottom figure shows estimated percentage of employment that is variable

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Average Annual Agricultural Wages



- This page functions identically to the Covered Employment page
- Here, we can select "Berry, except strawberry, farming") and we can see the geographic distribution of this industry filled by the average annual wages for that industry

Average Annual Agricultural Wages

- This page functions identically to the Covered Employment page, except that it is showing wages and not employment
- Wage data has been adjusted to 2019 dollars using the BLS Employment Cost Index (ECI).
- Here, we can select "Berry, except strawberry, farming") and we can see the geographic distribution of this industry filled by the average annual wages for that industry

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Covered Hourly Agricultural Wages



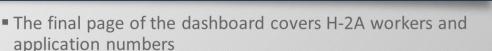
- In contrast, since hourly wages come from tax information, there is no geographic data available
- The industry is currently set to total, which includes all Ag Industries
- The summary statistic can be toggled between mean and median
- This "wage quotient" is simply the hourly (mean or median) wage divided by the "total" (mean or median) hourly wage
- Right now, it's 1, but if we change to the whole "support activities subsector, we can see that the wage quotient provides a relative comparison for each industry

Agricultural Labor Shortages

- We use the Hertz and Zahniser labor shortage criteria (of which more information can be found by clicking this link here
- It is defined by two factors, 1) the annual wage change % from one year to the next (on Y axis) and 2) the Employment change % on the X axis
- This orange region defines the area that meets the criteria defined here
- We can toggle to see the industries that meet this criteria
- There are a few blue observations that appear to fall into the orange region but these simply have too few employees in 2018 to meet the criteria

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H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers



- For perspective, users can click on "USA" and see how Washington ranks next to other states by year (click Washington)
- We can look at either number of H-@A workers or number of applications
- This data is from the DOL (click here for more info), above, this links to an informational page on H-2A program

ADDENDUM III.

Agriculture and Food Production Workers Vaccine Operation Updates

Liz Clark & Darius Bazemore

Vaccination Modalities

- Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) have been leading the coordination of vaccine distribution using the following modalities:
 - Employer-based clinics
 - Regular community clinics with extended hours
 - Extended mass vaccination site hours
 - Mobile teams
- Federal Programs

Challenges

- Myths around the vaccine
 - Community outreach and educational campaigns on radio and TV
- Challenges with capturing data
 - Employer concerns, capacity challenges, many modalities and groups working on this
 - Working to improve
 - More agricultural workers come into the State in May and June
- Seeking to enhance partnerships with LHJs and Community Based Organizations

Mobile Teams

- National Guard teams expanded to 6 total teams.
- State contracted teams providing vaccination support in Adams and Franklin Counties
- · Independent contractors also servicing counties with high agriculture populations
- WebEOC assistance continuing to be provided to counties indicating need for resources.
- Nurse teams being promoted to interested counties for smaller vaccination efforts.

ADDENDUM IV.





VACCINE PLANNING UPDATE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS April 15, 2021



Autrise Contraction Contractio

Map shows locations of farmworker housing throughout the state.

Vaccine priorities will be influenced by the extent of outbreaks in agricultural counties.

| Population | Population Breakdown | Strategies | Modalities | Access/Outreach | Population |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, including H2-A workers. | Over 80% of the jobs were in 10 counties: Yakima, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Benton, Franklin, Okanogan, Adams, Walla Walla, and Klickitat. | LHJ Existing Plans Federal Pharmacy Program Community Health Centers MTI Testing/Vaccine Mobile Testing Units (Birdseye, Anova, NG) | Local Clinic) LHJ hosted Point-in-Time Vaccination Clinics in ethnic enclaves with high number of agricultural workers Point-in-Time Vaccination Clinics in ethnic enclaves (in partnership with DOH) with high number of agricultural workers On-Site Vaccination Clinics hosted by employers of Agricultural Workers. | Grower Associations and Farms Community- based organizations Culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and services Spanish language media outlets Worker trainings Online Scheduling Non-electronic scheduling options | Estimated average of 69,000 migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in Washington State from 2017-2019. |

<u>Community Point-In-Time Vaccination Clinics</u> – LHJs, CHCs, and growers, shown to be effective at making vaccinations accessible to agricultural workers. Focusing on the community ethnic enclaves where agricultural worker families live, it will increase the chances that a larger proportion of agricultural workers gain access to the vaccines.

Allocation and Modalities On-Site Vaccinations - Mobile on-site vaccination clinics would support the vaccination of an important subset of agricultural workers, foreign H2-A contract workers, that live in congregate settings and may get their groceries in the Ethnic Enclave Communities where domestic agricultural workers live. It is likely that domestic foremen and farm managers will benefit from these on-farm vaccination clinics.

<u>High Throughput Sites</u> - High throughput sites can reach some agricultural workers. Many are excluded from acquiring the vaccine this way by transportation issues, work schedules, family obligations, an unfamiliarity with the process, language barriers, and feeling intimidated by site characteristics.

KEY CHANNELS

From the COVID-19 Farmworker Study of Washington 2020



Television is how most agricultural workers reported getting information about COVID-19 (67%)

Worker Trainings are another way agricultural workers reported getting information about COVID-19 (48%).

Social Media is the third highest way agricultural workers reported getting information about COVID-19 (46%).

Family (36%)

Spanish-Language Radio (35%)

Community Health Clinics (30%)

Friends (26%)

Doctor (15%) - May be due to lack of access to a personal doctor.

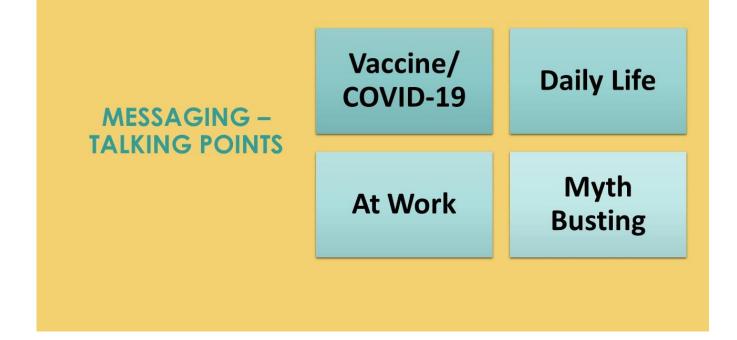
Communication and Engagement

Department of Health Statewide Media for LatinX Communities

The statewide campaign is available in English and Spanish as well as 35 other languages.

Every component of the campaign is either transcreated with audience input from English to Spanish or developed originally in Spanish with audience input.

The mile-wide media strategy works in tandem with the mile-deep approach and together, near saturation of Spanish-language media markets is reached statewide. Ads have and will continue to run almost constant throughout the pandemic across digital, broadcast and print media channels.

The COVID-19 vaccine campaign has three stages. Education (teaching people about the vaccines), Intent (helping people learn how to get a vaccine appointment), and Action (providing the final nudge some people need to inspire vaccination). 

Language Considerations – 35 Potential including;

| > Spanish | Mam |
|--------------|--------------|
| Mixteco Alto | Chuj |
| Mixteco Bajo | ➢ K'anjob'al |
| ≻ Triqui | Hmong |
| Zapoteco | Tagalog |
| Akateco | Samoan |
| | > Ukrainian |

EQUITY IN COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

GOAL: Ensure equitable distribution of the vaccine to the communities most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

| Engage | Integrate | Invest in and leverage | Ensure | Strengthen | Support |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Engage communities and foster opportunities for collaboration to inform vaccine planning and allocation. | Integrate a pro- equity approach into vaccine allocation and distribution. | Invest in and leverage trusted community leaders, messengers, and organization. | Ensure all communications, education, and outreach efforts are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible. | Strengthen the public health system's ability to center communities in vaccine outreach and access. | Support a trauma- informed approach to vaccine communications and engagement. |

LHJ Support Needs

| County | Education, Communications & Engagement Support | Operational Support |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Grant | Translated materials | Yes - Full: Planning, clinic site operations, staffing, outreach, vaccines |
| Benton – Franklin | Translation, language access, outreach | Yes – Partial: Mobile team only |
| Yakima | Yes – Vaccines. Not necessary, but additional mobile support appreciated | Employers, translations, outreach, community media |
| Chelan-Douglas | Yes - support to combat vaccine hesitancy | Vaccine hesitancy materials & messaging |
| Adams | Connecting with community media outlets | Yes – Vaccines for mobile clinics |
| Kittitas | No | Yes – Identifying employers, Translated outreach / vaccine materials |
| Cowlitz, Skamania, Clark | None | Yes – Partial: Mobile team only |
| Whatcom | Employers, translations, outreach, community media | Yes – Full: Planning, clinic site operations, staffing, outreach |
| Spokane | Culturally & linguistically appropriate materials | Yes - Vaccines |

LHJ Support Needs

| County | Operational Support | Education, Communications & Engagement Support |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Lewis | Yes – Best practices for planning, outreach, possibly additional translators | Culturally & linguistically appropriate materials |
| Grays Harbor | Yes – Partial: Mobile team | None |
| King | Yes – Full: Planning, clinic site operations, staffing, outreach | Employers, translations, culturally & linguistically appropriate materials |
| Clallam | Messaging in Mam | Yes – Vaccines |
| Wahkiakum | Unsure on needs | Unsure on needs |
| Pierce | CHWs, CBOs, employers, language access, community media | Yes – Partial: Mobile team only |
| Pacific | CHWs, CBOs, employers, language access, community media | Yes – Full: Planning, clinic site operations, staffing, outreach |
| Lincoln, San Juan, Whitman | No help needed | No help needed |

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Community Health Centers

- Yakima Farm Workers Clinic
- Moses Lake Community Health Center
- Quincy Community Health Center
- Columbia Basin Health Association
- Tri-Cities Community Health
- Columbia Valley Community Health
- Family Health Centers
- Mattawa Medical Center
- Sea Mar Community Health Centers
- Community Health of Central Washington
- Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

Mobile and community vaccine pop-ups

- Medical Teams International
- Health Commons

Promotoras de Salud

- QCHC Promotora (CHC)
- First Fruits Promotora (Employer)
- Yakima Health District Promotora (LHJ)
- C2C Promotora (CBO)
- CSC Network-Lead (Coalition)

Consulates

- Mexico
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Peru
- Chile

Agencies

- Labor & Industries
- Employment Security Dept.
- Dept of Agriculture



Additional agricultural companies, continued.

- First Fruits Farms/ Broetje Orchards
- Zirkle Fruit Selah, Yakima
- Allan Brothers, Yakima, Grant
- Carpenter Ranches, Yakima
- Hansen Fruit, Royal City, Grant
- Hansen Fruit, Yakima
- King Fuji Ranch, Grant
- Mercer Ranches Prosser, Benton
- Olsen Brothers Ranches, Benton
- S & C Ranches Warden, Grant
- SportFisher Orchards, Sunnyside, Yakima
- Valicoff Fruit, Wapato, Yakima
- Columbia Fruit Packers Wenatchee, Chelan
- Auvil Fruit, Orondo, Chelan
- O Douglas Fruit, Pasco, Franklin
- O Dovex Fruit Company, Chelan
- Matson Fruit, Selah, Yakima

- Monson Fruit, Selah, Yakima
- Congdon Orchards, Yakima
- Sunquist Fruit LLC, Yakima
- Tree Fruit Management, Pateros, Okanogan
- Valley Fruit Naches, Yakima
- Valley Roz, Yakima
- Chiawana Orchards, Yakima
- Gebbers Fruits & Orchards, Okanogan
- Fugachee Orchards, Okanogan
- GS Long; Wenatchee, Yakima
- Tree Fruit Management Company; Pateros, Okanogan

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Contracted Community Based Orgs

- CAFÉ: The Community for Advancement of Family Education
- Catholic Community Services
- Centros de Servicios Comunitarios
- CIELO Project Radio Ranch
- Clark County Latino
 Youth Conference
- Community 2 Community
- Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees
- Downtown Pasco Development Authority

- El Centro de la Raza (The Center for People of All Races)
- Entre Hermanos
- Familias Unidas Economy and Ecology Project
- Foundation for Multicultural Solutions
- Hands and Voices
- Hispanic
 Business/Professional
 Association and
 Foundation
- Latino Educational Training Institute (LETI)

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- Latinos en Spokane
- Latinx Unidos del South Sound (LUSS)
- Orquesta Northwest
- Our Valley Our Future
- Para Los Ninos (PLN)
- Raiz of Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
- Spokane Immigrant Rights Coalition
- Tri-Cities Hispanic
 Chamber of Commerce
- Western Wa. National Association of Hispanic Nurses (WW-NAHN)

Examples of funded Community-Based Organization activities:

Community 2 Community

Produce and post educational facebook videos with DOH messages and promotora COVID-19 curriculum in Spanish, Mixteco, Triqui, Mam, and Aguacateco

Promotora distribution of free PPE and share information on referral services for COVID recovery needs

Farmworker survey collaboration, planning and interviews

Familias Unidas

Produce in-language videos to raise awareness of vaccine locations and phase finder in Trique, Mixteco, and Spanish, to post on Facebook

Produce in-language videos to increase awareness of different vaccines and share experiences from getting vaccinated Trique, Mixteco, and Spanish, to post on Facebook

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Examples of funded Community-Based Organization activities:

Our Valley Our Future

Produce/send weekly e-newsletter with COVID information in Spanish and English

Partnered with Wenatchee World on a series of 3 1-hour online moderated events focusing on COVID issues important to the Chelan/Douglas counties LatinX community

Purchase Spanish language local radio ads (KZML, KZUS, KRZW) encouraging Latino residents to get vaccinates and where, when, and how they can do that.

Wenacthee Café

'Si a la Vacuna' messaging delivered on banners, t-shirts, masks, sanitizer

Video recording of interviews with community members who have experienced COVID

Drive-through community events 'De mi corazon al tuvo' (distribute campaign info)

Un Buen Consejo series of posts for testing/vaccines on Facebook

1:1 outreach over the phone for vaccine appointment assistance

Contracted Community Media Outlets

- Actitud Latina
 - KDNA FM 91.9
 - KKMO 1360
 AM Radio El
 Rey
 - KNTS 1680 AM -Radio Luz
 - KUNS-TV / KUNW-TV KXPA 1540 AM
- La Nueva 103.3 FM and 92.1 FM -Alpha Media USA
- La Pera
- La Voz Newspaper
- Latino Northwest Communications

- Rainier Avenue Radio
 - Telemundo
 - Tu Decides/You Decide
 - VT Radio Tacoma

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Funding Opportunities

Vaccine equity initiative Funding: ALLINWA

Round 1: Application due March 24 (past)

Round 2: Application due April 7 (past)

Round 3: Application due April 21

Round 4: Applications due May 5

Funding priorities: - Farmworkers and agricultural workers, including meat processing workers; Immigrants and refugees; BIPOC, and other disproportionally impacted groups

Agricultural Community Partners Space

- Weekly Meetings
- About 28 Agricultural partners
 - o Community health workers/health promotoras'
 - o Community-based organizations
 - Advocates faith-based partners
 - Community media
- Space will serve as an opportunity to share:
 - engagement efforts,
 - Concerns/challenges
 - Recommendations

Identifying opportunities to best support outreach and engagement efforts

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Highlighted Needs/Concerns

- National Guard presence
- Documentation
- Hours of operation
- Hire trusted community leaders to provide culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate education, material and outreach
- Agricultural specific DOH site
- Language support
- Specific areas of vaccine education and resources needed to support engagement efforts (infographics, audio, video, translations...etc)
 - E.g., Video with trusted community partners; J&J specific talking points to address religious concerns; side by side 'comparison'...etc

Food Processing Workers

Definition of Done: This population is complete on May 1st or when all designated sites have been provided an opportunity to receive vaccine via an employer on-site clinic.

Population: Includes specifically those who work and/or live in a congregate setting interacting with high volume of co-workers (vs. animals) over extended periods of time (i.e. 3 or more hours in a 24-hour day). Also includes those working in fishing vessels. Estimates for this population includes 41,104 people.

Access to Vaccine: This population has access using the open to all scheduling applications. Additionally, some sites may have coordinated employee clinics to vaccinate staff in order to improve vaccine uptake and provide convenience to the hourly employees. Employers may coordinate with vaccine providers or LHJs to coordinate on-site clinics.

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Contact information

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Employment Security Department • Policy, Data, Performance and Integrity