



# Farmworker Needs Assessment

April 2022



# Farmworker Needs Assessment

Focusing on 11 Oregon counties: Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, Washington

submitted April 2022

prepared by Colibri Consulting

on behalf of the Oregon Human Development Corporation

**Acknowledgments:** Assessment activities were planned and conducted with collaboration between Colibri Consulting, OHDC Regional Supervisors and their staff team members. Farmworkers are busy people who are often difficult to connect with, and OHDC staff went to great lengths to ensure that nearly 1000 Farmworkers were able to participate in assessment surveys, interviews and forums. Key team members included Alma Ramirez, Briseida Bolanos, Christie Mata, Claudia Castro, Frances Alvarado, Jaime Valero, Jeaneth Mendoza, Josefina Cortez, Maria Ortega, Marisol Torres, Maritza Ibarra, Moises Hernandez, Rene De La Cerda, Silvia Pacheco, Susana Christancho, and Vanessa Luczak. Agency partners also helped tremendously in distributing surveys - special thanks goes out to UNETE Center for Farmworker Advocacy, and to the Farmworkers and Farmworker advocates who took the time to participate.

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# Executive Summary

A large share of Farmworkers live in poverty and struggle to put food on their own tables. We talked to them to learn what they need most and what self-sufficiency looks like from their perspective. Farmworkers and their advocates (including OHDC staff and partner service providers) participated in surveys, interviews and group discussions to expose needs and outline solutions.

A wide array of needs were identified – from a common lack of clean bathrooms and water at work, to physical and mental health issues related to things like harrasment and pesticides. These needs are summarized below, grouped by the self-sufficiency themes mapped out during Farmworker forums. They're not arranged in order of importance, since all of them are pressing, but the needs identified most frequently by Farmworkers include all **Employment Justice needs, English classes and Translation services, Information access, and Legal assistance**:

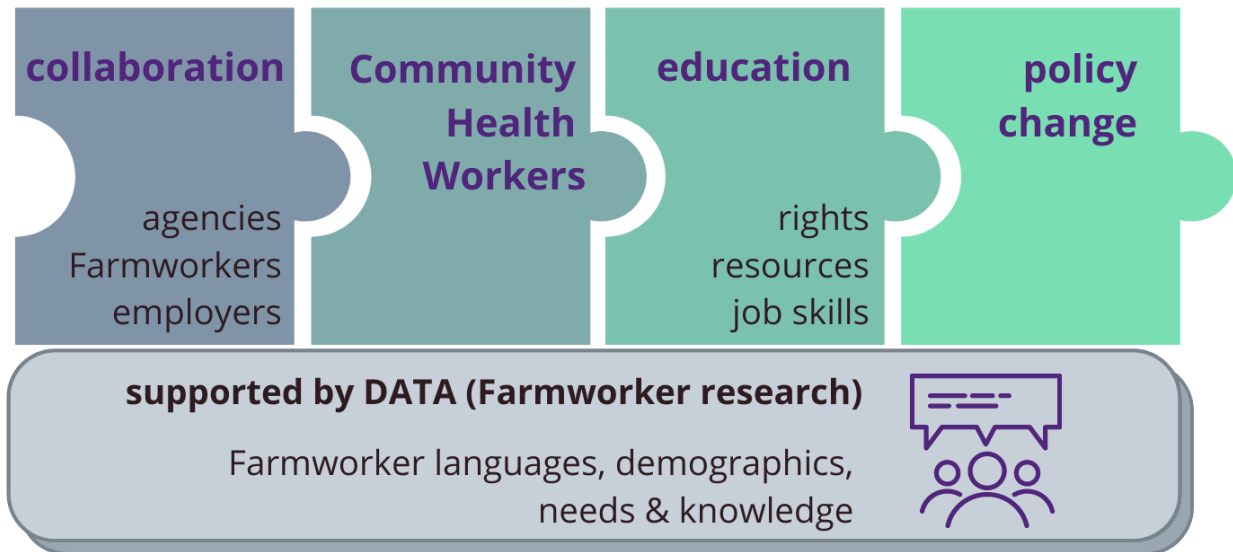
Self-Sufficiency theme	Needs
Employment Justice	Workplace health and safety improvement; Worker exploitation, discrimination & sexual harrasment reduction; Income & benefits improvement
Education	Digital literacy support & classes; English language classes & translation services; Rights education and job skills training in Spanish and Indigenous languages
Resources	Information & technology; Housing; Transportation; Childcare; Health; Food
Empowerment	Legal assistance; Financial planning assistance
Farmworker Leadership	Leadership development

Farmworkers and service providers also described a framework of solutions, which go beyond just providing assistance. They aim for long term Food Systems Change where Farmworkers are valued as key members who have critical knowledge and skills. Where they are compensated with living wages, safe job sites and respect.

This framework summarizes the detailed Systems Change steps mapped out by service providers and the self-sufficiency goals envisioned by Farmworkers.



## Framework for creating a system where Farmworkers can thrive



The current food system is entrenched in several decades of laws and habit that allow Farmworkers to be exploited, so it will take time and collaboration to chip away at the injustices keeping them in poverty. It will also take more research to understand where and how support can most successfully reach Farmworkers, because there's very little data showing what life is like for them, or even how many of them there are and what languages they speak. We now know at least 26 languages indigenous to Mexico and Guatemala are spoken by Oregon Farmworkers, but there's no telling how many people are speaking these languages or how many other languages are out there. The most recent enumeration study presents a notable effort to count Farmworkers based on existing data, but in some counties the resulting estimates are not very realistic. Regional data from the U.S. Department of Labor indicates around a third of Farmworkers live in poverty. Like other Farmworker statistics though, this number is based on very limited data, and is likely too low since over half our survey participants reported poverty level incomes.

To build a system where all Farmworkers are able to rise above poverty, the following measures, based on existing resources and participant input, are recommended. Each of these actions represent building blocks within the solutions framework – specific steps that service providers can take.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Communicate with Farmworkers:** Use multiple strategies to communicate regularly with them (see *Strategies for connecting with Farmowkres* infographic in the Communication Barriers section). Invite them to share their stories and opinions. Employ Community Health Workers (promotores) who speak Farmworker languages to help find and connect with them. Continue talking with Farmworkers and those who work with them to ensure each county is providing the services they're asking for.



**Collaborate to provide resources:** Work with partners in each county to develop a searchable, comprehensive guide that's easy to access and keep updated. Publish the guide in Spanish and, when possible, in Indigenous languages. Team up with partners to leverage funding, reduce duplicated services and reach more people. Employ Community Health Workers who speak Farmworker languages and refer people to services, healthcare and mental healthcare providers. Seek out collaborations that address identified needs.

**Policy advocacy and Leadership Development:** Support organizations that are working to advance Farmworker justice through policy change. Collaborate to bring more Farmworker voices to the table to inform policy change efforts. Facilitate local leadership development opportunities (Farmworker led coalitions, participation in advisory boards, school boards, etc). Boost moral and hope through story telling – promote the value of Farmworkers in the broader community.

**Education:** Show Farmworkers how to access existing sources of information. Provide job skills training, English and digital literacy classes and support. Inform Farmworkers, employers and supervisors about Farmworker rights and how to claim benefits and make claims regarding safety, discrimination and abuse. Educate the general public, employers and Farmworkers themselves about their value, including the value of undocumented workers.

**Engage Employers:** Engage with farm owners and employers to shift cultural dynamics, and identify farm sustainability practices that support workers too. Investigate innovative programs that ensure just food production practices and share them with employers. Promote worker health and safety measures among employers.

**Support Farmworker Research:** Support revision of Farmworker enumeration methods for future estimates of population size, average household size, the percent of Farmworkers who travel alone, and the Indigenous population. Support projects that investigate the languages spoken by Farmworkers, as well as poverty by gender, age and ethnicity. More information about how farm labor affects workers and their families, and how different workplace interventions could improve wellbeing are also needed. Involve Farmworkers in participatory research to tell their own stories.

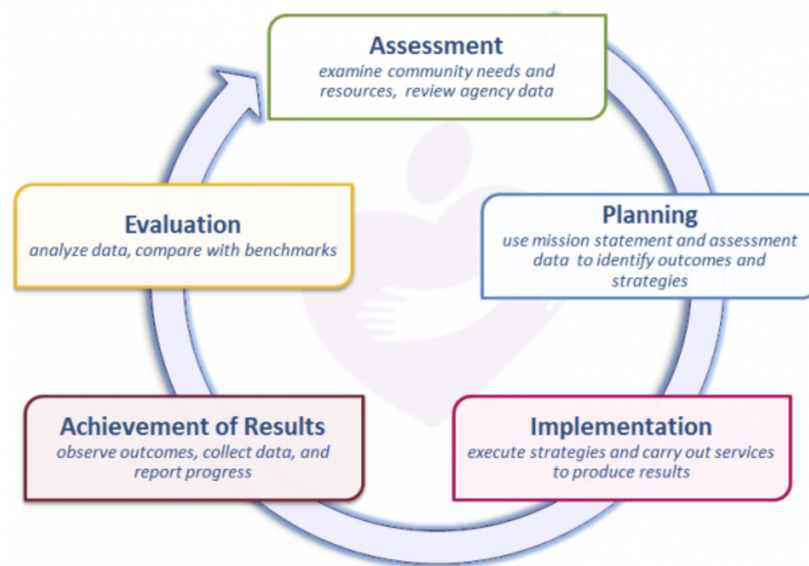
In combination, these recommendations provide mutually supportive strategies for propelling much needed Systems Change. They leverage existing community strengths to create an environment where Farmworkers can become self-sufficient. Empowering them to handle their own needs effectively and with dignity.



# Introduction and Agency Overview

As a recipient of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds, the Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) strives to base strategies and service priorities on the needs and strengths in our communities. The Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework is a continuous cycle used by CSBG recipients to best meet community needs. Assessing assets and needs in a community is the first phase of the cycle and sets the stage for agency planning and improvement.

## Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle steps<sup>1</sup>



OHDC partnered with Colibri Consulting to conduct a Farmworker Needs Assessment for our service area, with a focus on 11 Oregon counties: Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, and Washington. Input from Farmworkers, OHDC staff and agency partners regarding community assets and needs was collected during 2021 and analyzed, as outlined in Appendix A: Methodology.

This assessment targets the following ROMA Next Gen Needs Assessment goals:

- Assess level of poverty within the Farmworker community
- Assess how well the needs of low income individuals and families are currently being met – including what assets and resources the community has
- Identify service barriers that limit the effectiveness of the current service network

<sup>1</sup>ROMA cycle illustration and assessment goals from ROMA Next Gen Needs Assessment guidelines



- Assess relationships with key partners and stakeholders and identify how to strengthen them
- Develop recommendations that will enhance the community's ability to address the concerns of low income Farmworkers and their families

OHDC is a nonprofit organization that provides workforce development and associated services for Farmworkers and other disadvantaged individuals throughout Oregon. Our mission is:

*Promoting economic advancement and self-sufficiency  
of Farmworkers and underserved communities*

We've provided services since 1979, including employment training and support, resource referrals, advocacy, housing assistance and education. We reduce poverty by helping people meet basic human needs and increase their self-sufficiency. With 11 offices across Oregon and one in northern Nevada, we generate economic impact by bringing hundreds of thousands of grant dollars into the community annually and providing over 50 permanent jobs.





## Who We Serve

OHDC's participants have traditionally been Farmworkers or Farmworker family members. This shifted somewhat with onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and Cares Act relief funding, and in 2020 participation surged nearly 200% to over 11,000 individuals being served. Prior to the pandemic, 98% of those accessing housing assistance programs were from Farmworker households. In 2020, only 65% of housing participants were Farmworkers, but in 2021 that number rose back up to 79%. As Cares Act funding declines and the pandemic economy stabilizes, OHDC expects program participation to decline somewhat, but we continue to serve all low income households seeking our services, with an emphasis on Farmworkers, and low income Latinx communities.

### OHDC served 7670 individuals (2334 households) in 2021

Measure	Outcomes
Race/ethnicity	94% Latino, 4% White (non Latino), 2% Other
Gender	52% female - 48% male
Largest age group served	24-44 year olds
Children served (<18 years)	46%
Household Poverty	80% are below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level
Income sources (household)	76% employment income only, 10% no income, 8% federal assistance or unemployment
Housing	5% own their home, 81% rent
Homeless	3%
Education	16% of adults (age 24+) have grade 12 or higher diploma, (75% have no high school diploma, 9% unknown)
Health insurance	41% are not insured
Migrant Farmworkers	2%
Seasonal Farmworkers	74%
Legal status	43% are undocumented, 37% are U.S. citizens



# Farmworker Community Profile

## How do we define Farmworkers?

Farmworkers in Oregon can be domestic or foreign-born, and can be migrants (who leave their permanent residence to do seasonal farm jobs for months), seasonal or permanent 'hired' workers. Seasonal Farmworkers do not have year-round permanent jobs and they may work for multiple employers throughout the year, but they return to their residence each day after work. Most Farmworkers are assumed to be seasonal, and about 33% of these are migrants<sup>2</sup>. They work in a wide variety of agricultural settings. They may be U.S. citizens who were born here, or legal residents who immigrated to resettle permanently. Or they may come temporarily from another country (typically Mexico, Guatemala or another Central American country), as part of the federal H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program. There are also 'undocumented' Farmworkers, who immigrated without legal documentation. OHDC serves all of these groups and this assessment includes permanent Farmworkers as well as migrant and seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW).

The work Farmworkers do includes growing and harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodities. Including raising livestock, dairies, bees or poultry, fish farming, forestry and timber harvesting. It can involve handling, planting, harvesting, packing, drying, processing, freezing, grading, packaging as well as delivery to storage or market, and can include forestry work like tree planting, clearing and brush disposal<sup>3</sup>.

Dependents, or non-farmworkers in Farmworker households, are also served by OHDC and are included in this assessment. Over 75% of MSFWs are 'accompanied' by non-farmworkers, many of whom are children<sup>4</sup>.

While all the people described here depend on farm work, there is no comprehensive data source that accounts for all of them. The U.S. Census collects demographics with basic ethnicity data, which can tell us about poverty among Latinx. To extrapolate this data to Oregon Farmworkers, one assumes Latinx community members with any type of job face the same economic issues as Farmworkers. The National Agricultural Workers Survey does not include H-2A workers, and only provides a small sample from Oregon and Washington combined. The USDA's Farm Labor Survey collects labor and wage data from employers but does not include off-farm packing and processing or any info about Farmworker dependents<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>3</sup>Code of Federal Regulations 651.10

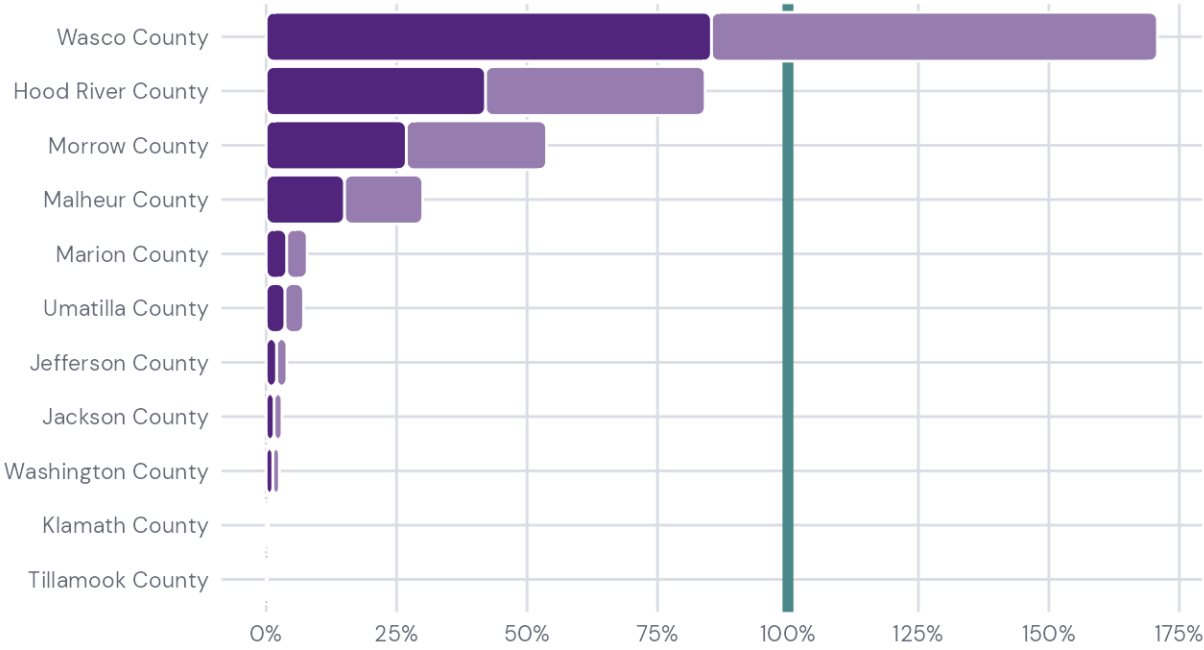
<sup>4</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>5</sup>US Department of Labor, NAWS Overview and other Farm Labor Information Sources



Oregon’s 2018 enumeration study used multiple data sources to estimate the number of Farmworkers and their non-Farmworker dependents in each county<sup>6</sup>. The report describes several limitations and assumptions, but it remains the most comprehensive attempt to count Oregon Farmworkers, so these are the population numbers used in this assessment.

Estimated number of Farmworkers and their Dependents in each county, shown as a percentage of Total County Population



Due to conservative methodology and the exclusion of permanent ‘hired’ workers, commercial fishing, off-farm processing and packing workers, the estimates are thought to be on the low end. But in some counties, like Wasco, the number of estimated Farmworker family members is close to or higher than the total population. This may be accounted for by labor-intensive tree crops requiring high seasonal in-migration, or by Farmworkers being counted multiple times because they work overtime on multiple farms, or other reasons. But without further studies we can’t be sure how many Farmworkers each county truly depends on.

<sup>6</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update



## Farmwork historical and economic context

In the early 1900's, Mexican immigration for farm jobs in Texas boomed, leading to a steady flow of Mexican and Mexican-Americans looking for work in northern states like Oregon, where many became permanent residents. The first major Latinx migration to the Northwest began in the 1940's though, when local and Japanese laborers were no longer available due to war recruitment or internment. Farmers turned to Mexican-American immigrants as well as temporary bracero laborers who were federally contracted from Mexico until 1964 when the bracero program ended. After the program ended, most migrant workers were U.S. citizens coming from the Southwest. This began to change in the 1980s, when economic conditions in Mexico pushed more people to look for work in the U.S.<sup>7</sup> At the same time, the Immigration Reform Act of 1986 created H-2A visa status specifically for agricultural workers, to meet demand for temporary farm labor without adding to the country's permanent population. Unauthorized immigration from Mexico has slowed since 2020 for political and economic reasons, and the use of H-2A workers has increased to meet the resulting need<sup>8</sup>.

Oregon now has over 37,000 farms producing over \$5 billion worth of agricultural products annually. Most of them (97%) are family farms and only 3% are owned by Latinx. A wide variety of crops, livestock and agricultural products are produced. Some of these, like potatoes, grapes and tree fruit, are very labor intensive, and 27% of Oregon farms rely on hired labor<sup>9</sup>. This amounts to over 86,000 Farmworkers, 12,000 of whom are not legally authorized to be here<sup>10</sup>. These undocumented Farmworkers are responsible for 18% (\$732 million) of the state's annual economic output<sup>11</sup> and pay around \$13 million in taxes annually<sup>12</sup>.

Despite the significant contribution Farmworkers make to our economy, **agricultural work is not subject to the same labor laws as other industries** in Oregon. Historically, Farmworkers across the country have been excluded from health, safety and other protections. They were excluded from collective bargaining rights secured in the National Labor Relations Act of 1935; from minimum wage and overtime pay protections in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; and from old-age benefits and

<sup>7</sup>Hispanic migrant labor in Oregon, 1940-1990

<sup>8</sup>Bipartisan Policy Center, 2021 and Migration Policy Institute, 2017

<sup>9</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture

<sup>10</sup>Migration Policy Institute Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Oregon, 2019

<sup>11</sup>Economic impacts of removing unauthorized immigrant workers, Center for American Progress, 2016

<sup>12</sup>Oregon Center for Public Policy, 2017



unemployment insurance in the Social Security Act of 1935. When Congress created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to enforce workplace safety standards in 1971, authority to regulate Farmworker pesticide exposure was not included. This power was given to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) instead. Unlike OSHA, the EPA must conduct a cost-benefit analysis – accounting for interests other than worker safety – before passing workplace pesticide standards<sup>13</sup>.

**Unequal treatment of Farmworkers continues today.** Farmworkers still rely on the EPA to pass workplace pesticide standards. Farmworkers remain excluded from protections for organizing and bargaining, and only about 4% of farming, fishing and forestry workers in the U.S. belong to unions<sup>14</sup>. Some documented Farmworkers at larger farms are now eligible for unemployment insurance – but this excludes most workers. Minimum wage requirements now apply to most agricultural workers, but workers on small farms are not entitled to minimum wage, and children as young as 12 are legally allowed to work in fields<sup>15</sup>. Farmworkers are still excluded from the right to overtime pay in Oregon, though a bill that aims to change this just passed in the state legislature.

**Farm labor shortages** across the country are shown by dramatic increases in H-2A worker requests, from 48,000 in 2005 to over 275,000 Farmworkers in 2020. **Yet Farmworkers earn less than 60% of the average wage** for other non-supervisory occupations in the U.S. (\$14.62 compared to \$24.68 in 2020). Farmworker wages have been slowly rising (wages in 2020 were about 4% higher than in 2019), but the impact of labor costs on farmer income has been offset by rising productivity and prices. In fact, labor costs as a share of gross farm income have fallen slightly over the last 20 years<sup>16</sup>.

Average Farmworker wages are somewhat higher in Oregon and Washington, around \$16–\$18 for crop and animal workers in 2021<sup>17</sup>. But the cost of living is also higher here – with Oregon ranking among the most expensive states in the country<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>13</sup>Justice Gonzalez, Washington State Supreme Court, Case No. 96267-7

<sup>14</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics News Release: Union Members – 2021

<sup>15</sup>Background Brief on Farmworker Labor, Oregon Legislative Committee Services 2012

<sup>16</sup>USDA Economic Research Service – labor cost share of total gross revenues

<sup>17</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

<sup>18</sup>Cost of Living Index, 2021



## Oregon Farmworkers Today – demographics

There are around 86,400 migrant and seasonal Farmworkers in Oregon. With the family members (dependents) who accompany them they total nearly 173,000 individuals who depend on income from farm jobs<sup>19</sup>. Most Farmworkers (around 92%) in Oregon and Washington are Latinx and over three quarters of them were born in Mexico<sup>20</sup>. Among these Farmworkers, 72% don't speak English well, while just 26% of Latinx and 6% of all Oregonians don't speak English well.

An undetermined, though notable number of Oregon Farmworkers are from Indigenous communities in Mexico or Guatemala, and many are not fluent or literate in English or Spanish. Some studies estimate that 40% of all migrant Farmworkers are Indigenous and that during harvest seasons they make up 20–30% of all Oregon Farmworkers<sup>21</sup>. At least 26 Indigenous languages are spoken by Oregon Farmworkers and some of these have no formal written method. Languages identified in the 11 counties we assessed are shown in Appendix B: Other county-specific demographics can be found in Appendix G: County Farmworker Profiles.

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<sup>19</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>20</sup>National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2017–2018 (crop agriculture only, does not include H2-A workers)

<sup>21</sup>Promoting the Occupational Health of Indigenous Farmworkers, 2007



## Oregon Farmworker Demographics

	All Oregonians	Oregon Farmworkers and Family Members
Total population	4,129,803	172,611 <sup>b</sup>
Households with children	27%	50% <sup>a</sup>
Poverty rates	13% below 100% FPL	27% below 100% FPL <sup>a</sup>
% age 65+	17%	4% (Latinx)
% under age 18	21%	36% (Latinx)
% with a disability	14%	9% <sup>c</sup>
Average age of working adults	41	39 <sup>a</sup>
% U.S. citizens	95%	28% <sup>a</sup>
% born in U.S.	90%	22% <sup>a</sup>
% undocumented	3% <sup>d</sup>	14% <sup>e</sup> – 46% <sup>a</sup>
% don't speak English well	6%	26% (Latinx) – 72% <sup>a</sup> (Farmworkers)
% Latinx	13%	92% <sup>a</sup>

Source: U.S. Census, ACS 2019 5-year estimates (using Latinx as a proxy for Farmworkers, unless otherwise noted)

<sup>a</sup>NAWS 2018 (crop workers in OR and WA, does not include family members)

<sup>b</sup>Estimates of MSWF in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>c</sup>The Prevalence of Disabilities in the US. Farm Population, Miller & Aherin, 2018

<sup>d</sup>Migration Policy Institute (MPI), 2019

<sup>e</sup>12,000 (MPI estimate of unauthorized FWs) = 14% of 86,389 (Estimates of MSFW in Agriculture)



Most Oregonians are U.S. citizens, but less than a third of Farmworkers have citizenship<sup>22</sup> – though many of their children are citizens, as reflected in the fact that over two-thirds of all Latinx are citizens. An estimated 14% of Oregon Farmworkers are undocumented – 12,000 people according to the Migration Policy Institute<sup>23</sup>. Though the National Agricultural Workers Survey found a whopping 46% of crop workers in Washington and Oregon were unauthorized in 2018, so the true number is not well defined.

There are 8 times more Whites (non Latinx) than any other racial or ethnic group in Oregon, but the majority of Farmworkers are Latinx. Poverty and inadequate income is common for Latinx, with 20% living below Federal Poverty Levels and 41% of families below the Self-Sufficiency Standard<sup>24</sup>. Low income makes it challenging for these families to make ends meet, and an even greater share of Farmworkers, especially Indigenous or undocumented workers, struggle to provide for themselves.

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<sup>22</sup>National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2017–2018 (crop agriculture only, does not include H2-A workers)

<sup>23</sup>Migration Policy Institute, 2019

<sup>24</sup>Overlooked and Undercounted 2021





## Conditions of Farmworker Poverty

Poverty is a fact of life for many Farmworkers. They are some of the lowest paid workers in the country, with families bringing in around \$20,000 to \$25,000 in 2018<sup>25</sup>. Average wages in Oregon and Washington ranged from about \$16-\$18/hour for crop and animal workers in 2021<sup>26</sup>.

“

*Thankfully we have organizations like OHDC helping people get out of farmwork. It's one of the worst jobs with the least pay and they're not acknowledged for the work they do. ~Indigenous Oaxacan female, former cannery worker, Marion County interview response*

**27% of Farmworkers are in poverty.** They suffer rates much higher than the rest of Oregon's population (13%), and higher than the broader Latinx population (20%) as well.

### Oregon Poverty and Income Facts

	All Oregonians	Oregon Latinx	Oregon Farmworkers*
Poverty Rate	13% below 100% FPL	20% below 100% FPL	27% below 100% FPL
% of of families with inadequate income	26% below Self-sufficiency**	41% below Self-sufficiency**	unknown
Children in poverty	26% below 100% FPL	53% below 100% FPL	unknown
Average (mean) personal income	\$33,763	\$19,020	\$17,500-\$19,999
Median family income	\$76,946	\$53,261	\$20,000-\$24,999
Unemployment	pre-pandemic = 4%	4%	unknown
	pandemic = 8%	9%	unknown

Sources: ACS 5-year estimates 2015-2019 (unless otherwise stated)

\*NAWS 2018 (crop workers in OR and WA)

\*\* Overlooked and Undercounted 2021: struggling to make ends meet in Oregon

<sup>25</sup>National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2017-2018 (crop agriculture only, does not include H2-A workers)

<sup>26</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service



The 2021 Self-Sufficiency Standard uses basic needs costs, like housing, childcare, food, health care, transportation and taxes to define a minimum level of income needed to live sustainably in each Oregon county<sup>27</sup>. About three-fourths of all Oregon households struggle to meet basic needs, while 41% of all Latinx households do not have adequate income<sup>28</sup>. The required income for Self-Sufficiency for a family of four in our service regions range from \$50,249 in Malheur County to \$83,667 in Washington County (see Appendix G: County Profiles). Over 3 quarters of Oregon Farmworkers live with family, and the average household consists of 2 adults and 2 children<sup>29</sup>. This is also the most common household size reported by our Farmworker survey participants, most of whom had household incomes between \$10,000 to \$40,000 (with a median income of \$27,000). Self-Sufficiency data is not available for Farmworkers, much less undocumented Farmworkers, but they are known to earn much less than workers with citizenship<sup>30</sup>, and the incomes reported in our survey suggest they have very high risk of unmet basic needs.

We know that some groups are more affected by poverty than others. For example, median income is lower for women than men across the state, but data is not specific to Latinx or Farmworkers, so it's unclear how great wage discrepancy might be between female and male Farmworkers. It's estimated that over a quarter of undocumented people in Oregon live below the poverty line, but we don't know if this same share applies to undocumented Farmworkers, or if even more of them are in poverty than other undocumented workers<sup>31</sup>. We do know that over half of Latinx children live in poverty in Oregon, and that Tillamook county has the highest poverty rates for Latinx in the 11 counties we assessed.

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<sup>27</sup>Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oregon 2021

<sup>28</sup>Overlooked and Undercounted 2021

<sup>29</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>30</sup>Immigration Status and Farmwork: Understanding the Wage and Income Gap, 2021

<sup>31</sup>Migration Policy Institute, 2019



County	% Latinx in Poverty
Tillamook	30%
Malheur	28%
Klamath	26%
Jackson	25%
Marion	21%
Morrow	20%
Umatilla	20%
Washington	17%
Jefferson	16%
Wasco	12%
Hood River	8%

Source: ACS 5-year estimates 2015-2019

But there is **no public data** that can tell us which age groups, genders or ethnicities are most affected by poverty in Farmworker communities.



# Key Findings

Our framework for assessing community needs and strengths aligns with the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system and standards for community assessment<sup>32</sup>. Assessment methods are presented in Appendix A: Methodology, and included Farmworker surveys, discussions and forums, key informant interviews, as well as OHDC staff and partner surveys and focus groups. Staff and partner organizations are referred to as *service providers* in most charts.

## Assets and Resources

Many programs are available for Farmworkers in Oregon. OHDC and partner agency staff are committed to improving lives in their communities. But no one works harder than the Farmworkers themselves – using their individual and community assets to make ends meet.

## Farmworker Communities

Service providers, many of whom come from farmwork backgrounds themselves, shared that Community Health Worker networks are key for connecting Farmworkers with resources, and that Farmworker communities have a lot of strengths:

*Resilience and determination to provide for their families are common among Farmworkers. They tend to be family oriented with strong cultural traditions and family support networks. They're willing to learn new skills and navigate new resources, then share what they've learned with others. They are hard workers, adaptable to all work environments and have strong work ethics. Many have strong cultural traditions and word-of-mouth networks, sharing info about available jobs, assistance programs and warning each other about 'bad employers'. They often have food on the table when times are tough, because many communities are tight-knit and neighbors help each other out. They're empathetic, humble and very appreciative of what is available to them. Often creative problem solvers – they find ways to manage time between intense work schedules and family needs. They're also willing to pool resources to make ends meet. Their hard work and creativity is part of what makes them so resilient.*

With such a strong reliance on their own communities, it's not surprising that the most common sources Farmworkers turn to for information about resources or assistance are friends or family (as indicated by Farmworker surveys). They also rely heavily on social service agencies, Spanish radio stations, social media, and the internet.

<sup>32</sup>ROMA principles and resources and NASCSP Community Needs Assessment Guidelines



“

*In the Farmworker communities they help each other. Families will work together to make sure a family in need is taken care of.  
~ OHDC partner survey response*

“

*They [are good at] communal living, resourceful [with] making meals and money stretch as much as possible. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

## Programs and Partner Organizations

OHDC staff have seen how different resources and programs benefit Farmworkers. Some of the most helpful resources they identified include multiple social service providers across the state, like Casa of Oregon, Latino Community Association, Oregon Child Development Coalition, Neighbor Impact, Bienestar Inc., Euvalcree, Capeco, The Next Door, One Community Health, Oregon Health Plan, the Oregon Employment Department, to name a few of the most mentioned. These organizations provide direct assistance, but many of them are also **building capacity and leadership among Farmworker communities**. Some of the services OHDC staff found especially helpful include OHDC programs like the National Farmworker Jobs Program and multiple housing assistance programs that help with rent, utilities and emergency housing. Partner programs they frequently refer to include financial assistance like the Oregon Worker Relief Fund and youth and adult workforce programs run by state and nonprofit collaborations. Education assistance programs are highly valued too, like the Migrant Education Program, High School Equivalency and College Assistance Migrant Programs, and the Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute. Services for English Language Learners that exist across the state at schools and colleges, and other community assets like public parks and events (concerts, fairs, etc) also contribute significantly to Farmworker wellbeing. They felt strongly that including Farmworkers and a diversity of service providers on **agency advisory committees** has improved their ability to address Farmworker needs.

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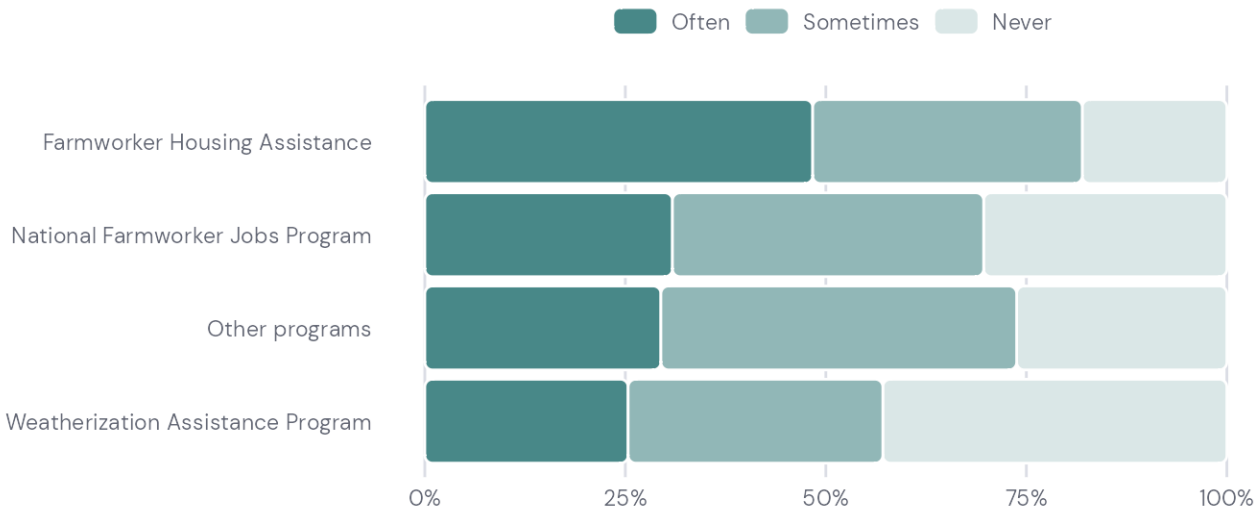
*Farmworkers come to get the assistance and support and they go out and do it... they make better livings and increase skills for their life. ~ OHDC staff member*



A network of partner organizations includes over 120 community, public sector, private sector, faith based, and educational institutions identified by OHDC program supervisors – 46 of whom responded to our survey and/or attended our partner focus group. Forums, surveys and interviews identified a wide variety of organizations that provide information and resources to Farmworkers. Resources identified by Farmworkers during group gatherings lean heavily on partner organizations and are presented by county in Appendix C.

Partners who took our survey consider OHDC a resource and often refer people to OHDC programs, especially the Farmworker Housing Assistance and National Farmworker Jobs Programs.

**How often do partners refer people to the following OHDC programs?**



Partner organizations are creative and open to strengthening collaborations. Ideas they shared to better serve Farmworker families are presented in Appendix D: Collaboration Opportunities. Multiple partners asked for additional focus groups to review information sources identified by assessment participants – with the aim to strategize new ways to reach more Farmworkers. There was also a common desire to build a communication system that would make it easier for all organizations to find current resources and eligibility requirements, and to increase referrals.



*I would love to brainstorm together and see how we can reach more families. ~ Central Oregon Disability Support Network, OHDC partner survey response*

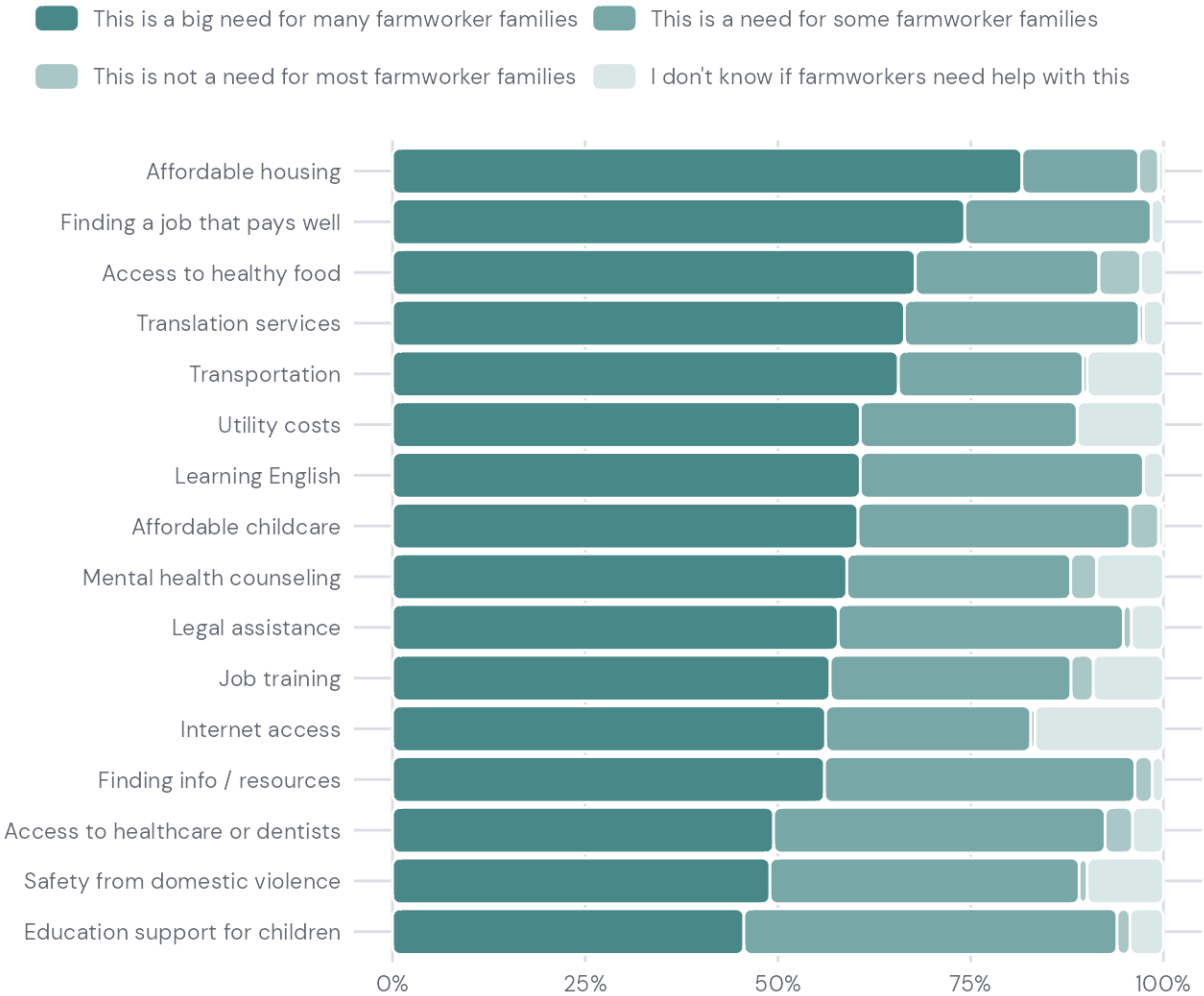


# Causes of Poverty and the needs they create

The CAUSES of poverty reduce access to resources and create barriers to self sufficiency. To understand what causes poverty among Farmworkers in Oregon we facilitated 10 Farmworker forums, and collected 948 Farmworker surveys across the state. Most survey participants are Farmworkers, or have Farmworker family members. Just over one quarter of them are migrant workers and nearly half work at multiple farms each year. Almost all of them identified as Latinx but a few wrote in Indigenous ethnicities – it’s possible many more would identify as Indigenous in an interview or if more specific ethnic descriptions were included in the survey questions. Most of them live with one to five other people and over half of their households live below Federal Poverty guidelines. Survey participant demographic details can be found in Appendix E.

Service providers also shared insight into Farmworker poverty through focus groups, interviews and surveys. OHDC staff created a list of 16 Farmworker challenges that were used in a needs-ranking survey question given to service providers and Farmworkers.

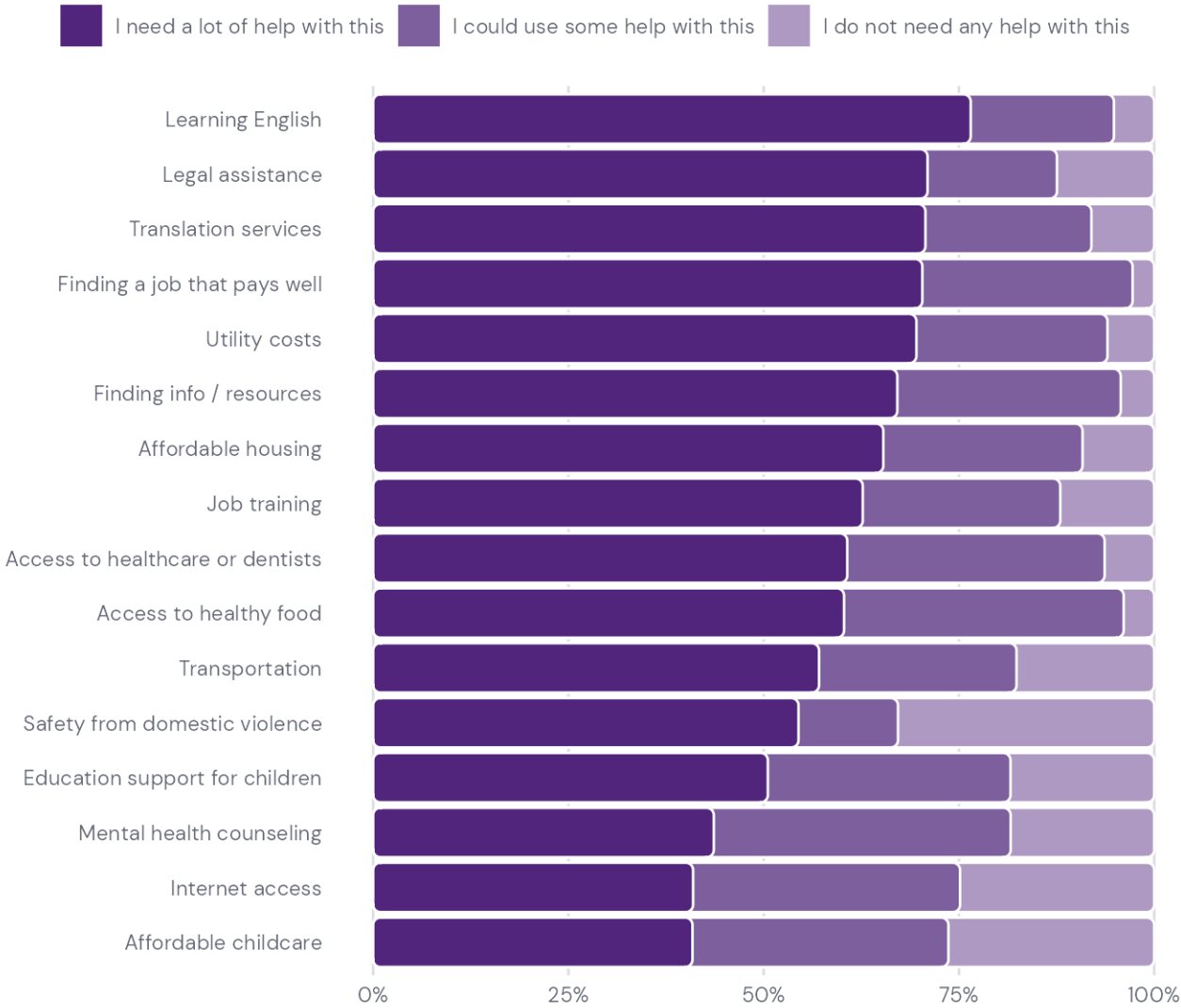
## Service providers ranked Farmworker challenges



Partner organizations and OHDC staff who took our survey selected affordable housing as one of the greatest needs. Most of them said finding work that pays well, affordable child care, finding information, translation services, and learning English are all needed by some or many Farmworkers.

Farmworkers who took our survey did say they need help with these things, but the things they need most help with are somewhat different. The greatest number of Farmworkers chose learning English as the thing they need a lot of help with, followed by legal assistance, translation services, finding jobs that pay well, accessing information, housing and utility costs. When looking at problems they need either a lot or some help with, **finding jobs that pay well** came out on top, while learning to speak and read **English**, getting enough healthy **food** and accessing **information** were needed by more Farmworkers than any of the other ranked needs.

### Farmworkers ranked challenges they need help with



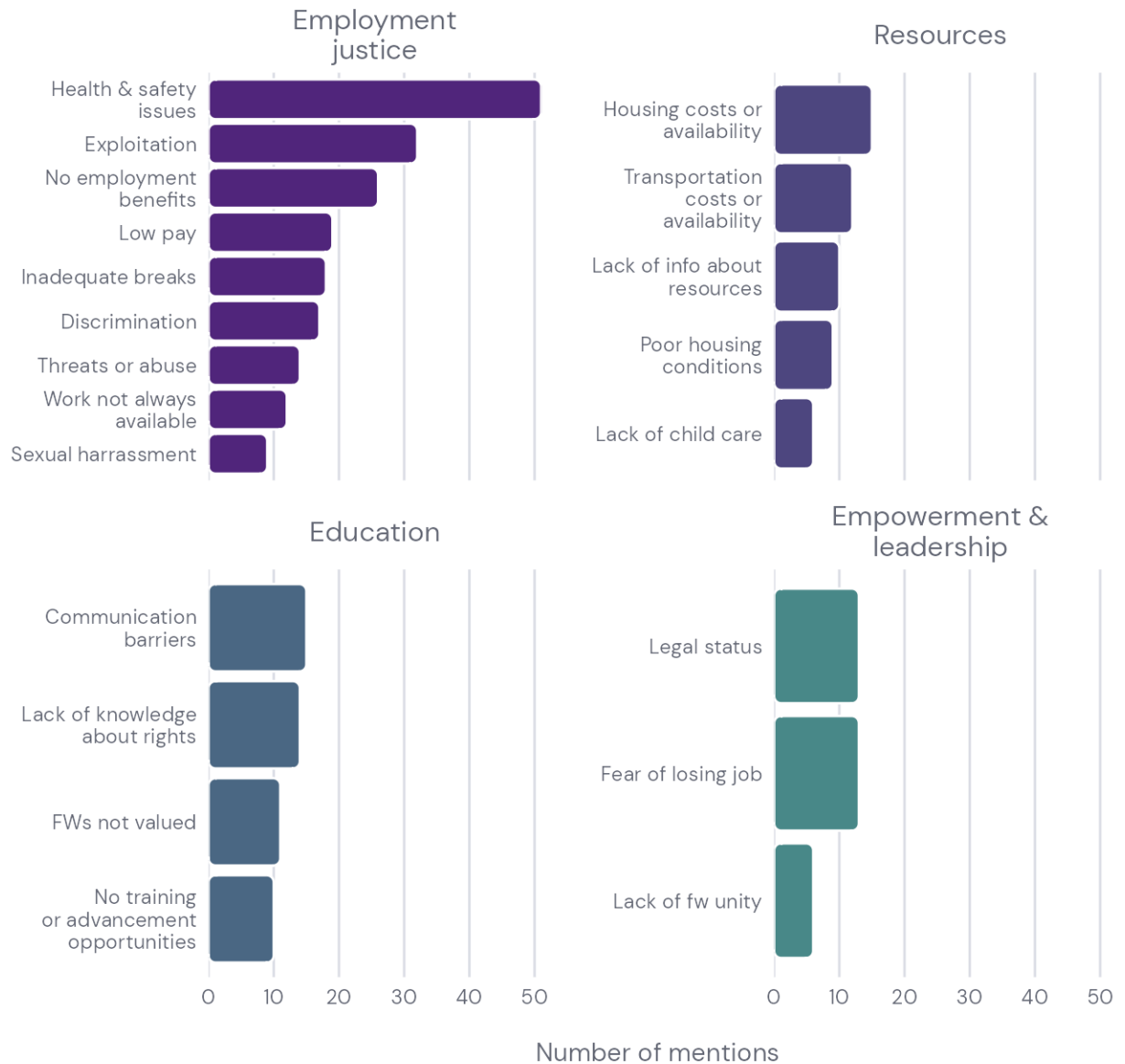
All 16 needs ranked by Farmworker surveys are significant – one quarter to over three quarters of Farmworkers said they need a lot of help with each one. Even more needs





(or problems) were identified during Farmworker forums and interviews. The majority of them were related to **employment and workplace issues**, especially around safety, exploitation and compensation. **Access to resources** like affordable housing, and **education and information related problems** were also commonly shared. **Empowerment related concerns**, especially around legal status and fear of losing one's job, were often discussed too.

### Problems most discussed at Farmworker forums

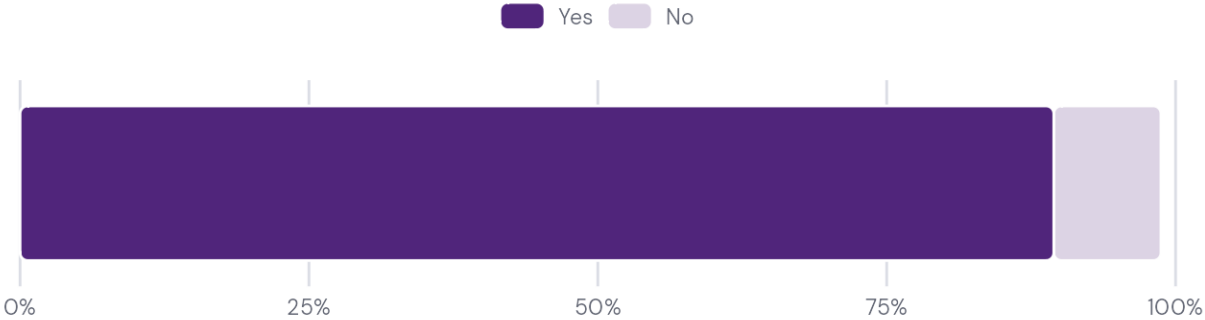


With high levels of poverty and a multi-faceted web of historical and societal causes, Farmworker needs are numerous. The following sections highlight some of the most mentioned causes of poverty and stress. Types of Systems Change needed to address them are discussed in the Solutions Identified section of this report.

# COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the work and home lives of Oregon Farmworkers. They’ve experienced increased stress, with little access to mental health services and have had trouble accessing childcare and supporting their children’s education throughout the pandemic. They’ve lost significant income, especially if they are female or Indigenous, and they have often been excluded from COVID relief efforts. They’ve struggled to manage exposure at work, where not all employers set up protective measures, and at home, where they have few options for quarantining<sup>33</sup>.

## 89% of surveyed Farmworkers lost wages because of COVID-19



OHDC staff shared that poverty related problems have become worse for Farmworkers during the pandemic – especially access to child care, housing, and mental health issues. They also noticed a rise in domestic violence during COVID shutdowns. Wage loss has made it even harder to cover living expenses and some Farmworkers who needed to take time off for illness or childcare experienced retaliation from employers. Internet access has been a problem, especially for families with children doing schoolwork online, but also for Farmworkers who struggled to access unemployment or other benefits online. Mask mandates, vaccine availability and other critical information has not been readily available to many, resulting in fear and confusion about how to stay safe.



*COVID-19 has really affected these families as they are losing a lot of [work] hours... and couldn't afford child care [during school closures]. ~ OHDC staff member*

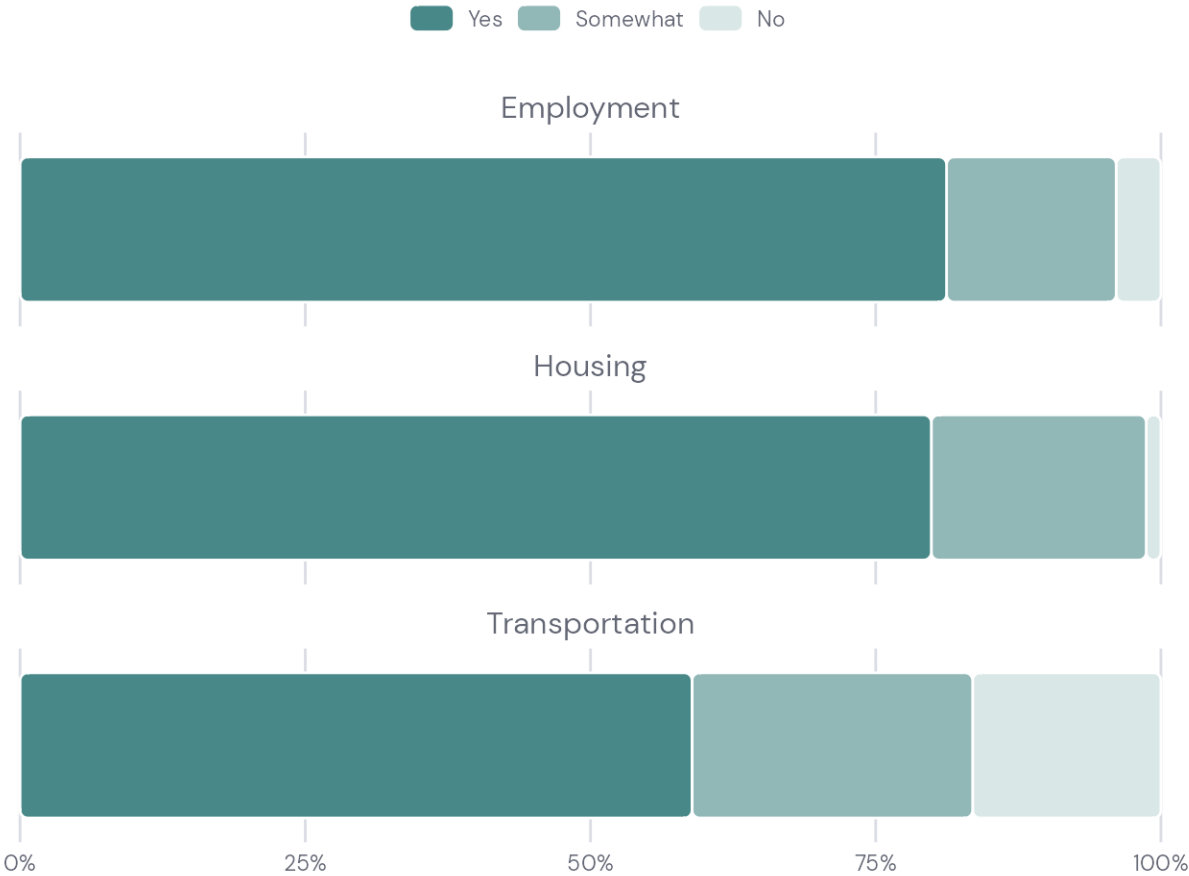


*Many workers are crowded into vans risking exposure to covid. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

<sup>33</sup>Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study, September 2020



**Service providers were asked if COVID-19 made these things more difficult for Farmworkers. The majority said YES**



“

*Some doctors have not taken Farmworker concerns seriously, but healthcare organizations did a great job providing accurate information regarding COVID. ~ Farmworker discussion participant, Wasco County*



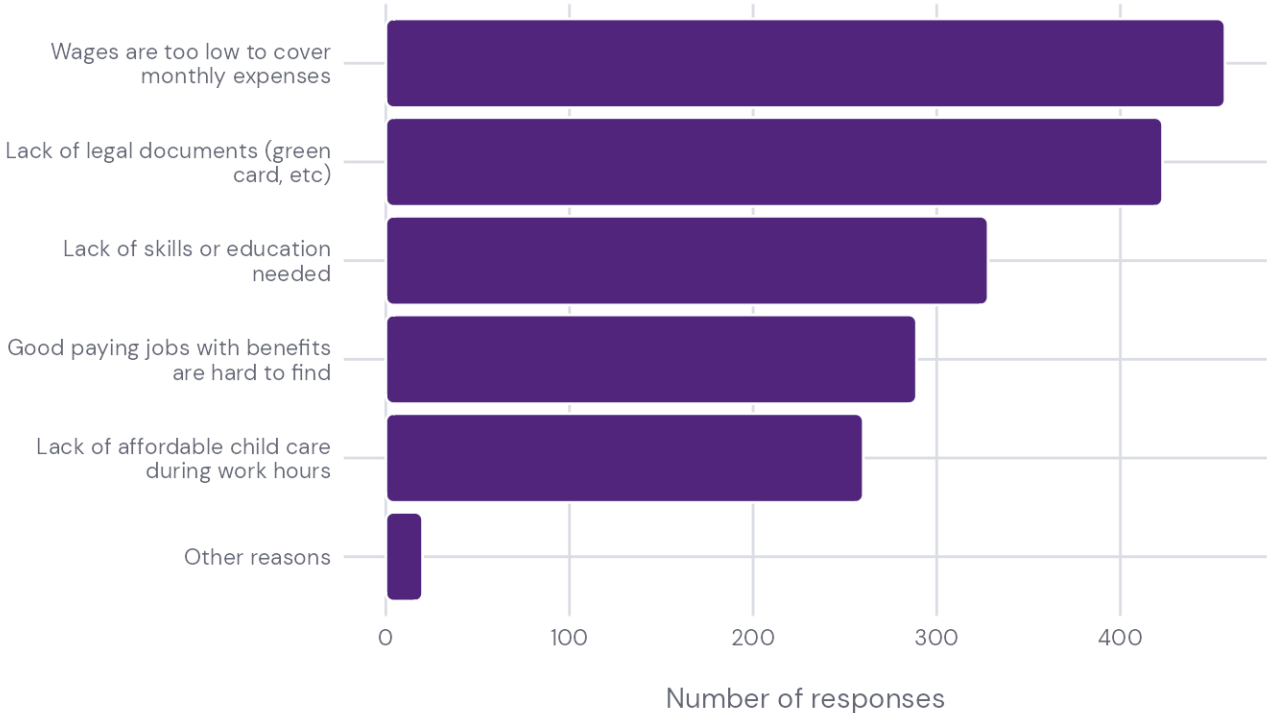
# Employment Injustice

Farmworkers commonly struggle with finances. Overtime pay is not required for Farmworkers in most states, including Oregon (though the state is in the process of changing this), and the seasonal nature of farm employment makes it difficult to find work with benefits of any kind. Finding permanent jobs that require resumes and interview processes can be intimidating or unattainable due to literacy, language and computer access challenges.

Farmworkers are afraid to speak up in cases of discrimination, health and safety violations and exploitation because they don't want to lose their job and the income they depend on. This is especially true for undocumented workers who are also afraid of deportation.

Farmworkers who participated in our survey said the most common problem with employment is that wages are too low to cover monthly expenses. This is not surprising since over half of them live below the poverty line. Lack of legal documents and lack of education were the next most concerning issues.

## Why EMPLOYMENT is difficult for farm workers



When asked about their greatest problems during Farmworker forums, many other employment related concerns were revealed. The greatest share were **health and safety issues**. Exploitation, inadequate compensation and discrimination were the next most discussed problems.



## Health and Safety

Agricultural work is among the most dangerous in the country, with a higher rate of fatal work injuries than any other industry<sup>34</sup>. Farmworkers who participated in this assessment perform physically demanding labor, often in hazardous environments such as severe weather, extreme air quality due to wildfires, exposure to toxic chemicals like pesticides, and risk of disease spread through close contact with others and unhygienic facilities. Work related injuries often go unreported for fear of job loss or retaliation, and not knowing how to navigate the Workers Compensation system. Some also believe they are not treated as well as someone who speaks English and has health insurance, which discourages them from seeking medical attention.

Despite Farmworkers' reluctance to report work related injuries, mid-size farms are responsible for more Workers Comp claims than all other mid-size businesses combined. Small farms (1-10 employees) have a rate similar to other types of businesses, but for farms with 11-49 employees, claims are nearly double that of other businesses and farms with 100-499 employees had over one third more claims than other businesses.

### Workers Comp claims in Oregon, 2015-2019

Business size	FARM businesses	NON-FARM businesses
1-10 employees	<b>2 claims per 100 businesses</b> (4,708 total businesses)	<b>1 claims per 100 businesses</b> (75,781 total businesses)
11-49 employees	<b>190 claims per 100 businesses</b> (881 total businesses)	<b>99 claims per 100 businesses</b> (13,983 total businesses)
50-99 employees	<b>671 claims per 100 businesses</b> (119 total businesses)	<b>401 claims per 100 businesses</b> (2,042 total businesses)
100-499 employees	<b>1,562 claims per 100 businesses</b> (60 total businesses)	<b>1,010 claims per 100 businesses</b> (1,746 total businesses)
500 or more employees	<b>3,450 claims per 100 businesses</b> (4 total businesses)	<b>5,872 claims per 100 businesses</b> (506 total businesses)

Source: State of Oregon Database of Workers' Compensation Claims

<sup>34</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020



Studies across the country have shown a lack of hand washing and toilet facilities at farms, and a lack of protective equipment linking pesticide poisonings to employer safety violations<sup>35</sup>. Pesticide exposure has been linked to several diseases, including cancer, birth defects, sterility, neurological disorders, coma and even death. It poses great risk to Oregon Farmworkers and their families. Studies have consistently shown that most Farmworkers do not receive training mandated by the 1996 Worker Protection Standards and that their understanding of pesticide safety is too low. Indigenous Farmworkers are at higher risk, as they have reported even less training and less pesticide knowledge than those who speak Spanish as their primary language<sup>36</sup>.

One study showed that using Community Health Workers who speak the Farmworkers' language to facilitate trainings resulted in lower pesticide exposure, but this is not common practice<sup>37</sup>.

“

*There is use of chemicals and lack of PPE in the field. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

“

*OSHA needs to enforce hygiene and safety rules – farm managers don't care about these things. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Jefferson County*

“

*BOLI and OHSA help Farmworkers with safety violation claims, but they need a lot more staff to enforce regulations and address all the violations that are happening. ~ Farmworker advocate/former Farmworker interview response, Jackson County*

OHDC staff have seen a lack of clean water for drinking and washing, as well as inadequate bathrooms at job sites in our service regions. Health and safety rules are not always enforced, and they've seen safety issues like excessive heat and chemical exposure coupled with a lack of protective equipment and Farmworkers not being

<sup>35</sup>Promoting the Occupational Health of Indigenous Farmworkers, 2007

<sup>36</sup>Occupational Health and Safety Status of Indigenous and Latino Farmworkers in Oregon, 2008

<sup>37</sup>Oregon Indigenous Farmworkers: Results of Promotor Intervention on Pesticide Knowledge and Organophosphate Metabolite Levels, 2013



allowed adequate breaks. Each of these claims were confirmed by Farmworkers during forum discussions.

Because agriculture is tied to specific seasons and locations, Farmworkers are at higher risk of health problems from prolonged exposure to extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Wildfires often happen during peak harvest seasons when workers can earn the most money and may be forced to choose between their health and putting food on the table. Such environmental hazards are expected to increase as the climate continues to change<sup>38</sup>.

“

*Farmworkers can't do much about the bad conditions because they're low wage workers and can't afford to take time off. There's not much access to shade or break time – taking any breaks is frowned on. The companies don't care about the workers – just the profits. Mental health needs and breaks are not discussed in farm settings, [but Latinx firefighting crews I worked on] had some standards about reaching out to other crew members. If Latino crews know they can report issues and be listened to, they will.  
~ Male college student, former Farmworker, Umatilla County, interview response*

“

*Farm administrators worry more about the company than the workers. They try to save money on equipment and tools for workers and it makes the work more difficult... Workers pay for their tools because the company doesn't provide tools in good condition.  
~ Farmworker discussion participant, Wasco County*

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<sup>38</sup>Oregon Health Authority, Climate and Health in Oregon 2020 Report



## Exploitation

The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported that H-2A workers need increased protections because of persistent abuses like illegal recruitment fees, false information about job conditions and payment violations<sup>39</sup>. Examples of Farmworker exploitation in our service areas were common throughout forums, focus groups, interviews and survey responses. Some of these are highlighted in the following quotes.

“

*Marijuana businesses are more abusive, sometimes they don't pay workers. There's no way to track them because everything is under the table. ~ Indigenous Michoacano and Farmworker rights advocate, Jackson County interview response*

“

*Payment abuse must be stopped. Pay should be the same for the same type of work and employers should pay what is owed. Pay should be good and bonuses should be given to good workers. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Washington County*

“

*Farmworkers are willing to do any job so bosses take advantage of their need. ~OHDC staff focus group response*

“

*Cannabis Farmworkers don't know if the employer is legal. So they often don't get paid and don't know the name of the employer. They are afraid to say anything. It's getting to be a bigger issue. ~ Indigenous Oaxacan female, Marion County interview response*

---

<sup>39</sup>GAO Report: Increased Protections Needed for Foreign Workers, 2015





“

*Domestic Farmworkers have to compete with H-2A workers... the immigrant workforce tends to be younger than domestic workers and they don't know the employment laws so employers have more control over them - how many hours they work, what stores they can get to, etc. ~ Farmworker representative for Marion County Employment Department, interview response*

“

*Employers take advantage of employees... they cheat the system to benefit themselves and it feels like the support systems [like OSHA] aren't working. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Hood River County*



## Low pay and lack of benefits

Farmworkers were excluded from minimum wage protections and overtime pay through the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Today farms are expected to pay minimum wage in Oregon, and a bill requiring overtime pay for Farmworkers just passed in the state legislature. It's not clear how the rollout of overtime pay will affect Farmworkers or farm businesses, but farm owners have voiced serious concerns about how policy changes that increase pay and benefits can limit farm productivity and economic viability. Some of them also claim that Farmworkers already get good job benefits<sup>40</sup>, but this does not line up with what Farmworkers have shared.

Insufficient benefits and pay rates were the 3rd and 4th most mentioned problems during our Farmworker forums, but some farms do try to provide good working conditions and wages. The director of Gorge Grown Food Network shared multiple stories of family farms that go "above and beyond to honor Farmworkers" in the Columbia Gorge region - like helping them purchase homes affordably or providing benefits that aren't legally required. Many farm owners struggle to maintain viable businesses, as described in farmer testimony during a recent Oregon House committee meeting<sup>41</sup>, so raising worker salaries can be difficult.

It's unclear how many farm owners have their employees best interests in mind. But we do know that nearly a third of Farmworkers live in poverty and an unknown, but possibly much higher portion of them struggle to make ends meet as a result of low income and inconsistent work availability.

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<sup>40</sup>Statesman Journal, Oregon Association of Nurseries, guest opinion Jan. 2022; and Oregon House Interim Committee On Agriculture, farmer testimony at 1:49, Nov. 2021

<sup>41</sup>Oregon House Committee on Agriculture testimony, at 1:57 minutes, 11/16/2021



## Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

Discrimination against Farmworkers is common, according to OHDC staff who often hear about it from their program participants. This was confirmed during Farmworker forum discussions, and is known to lead to depression and poor health outcomes<sup>42</sup>.

“

*[There is] power and threat abuse over undocumented and non English speaking farm workers. Contractors and leads take advantage over these Farmworkers in many different ways, threatening to fire them or call immigration if they speak up for themselves, or don't do as they're told. ~ OHDC staff survey response*

“

*Farmworkers are treated badly and told they don't know anything. Supervisors say things like "if you don't work harder I'll send you back to your own country." ~ Farmworker forum participant, Umatilla County*

“

*Discrimination against indigenous workers is much worse than it is against Latinos – lots of Guatemalans in Lane county face discrimination. ~ Indigenous Michoacano and Farmworker rights advocate in Jackson County, interview response*

“

*You work out of necessity – workers put up with poor treatment and housing because they need work. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Hood River County*

<sup>42</sup>Promoting the Occupational Health of Indigenous Farmworkers, 2007



Farmworkers and service providers shared that sexual harassment and assault at work often goes unreported due to fear of retaliation, job loss and discrimination.

“

*Women don't report problems (like sexual harassment and domestic violence) or look for help because they don't want to create more barriers in their small community – everyone knows who complains. ~ Indigenous Oaxacan female, interview response*

“

*Female workers are made to do heavy work that men usually do when they reject a sexual advance from a supervisor. ~ Farmworker forum participant female, Umatilla County*

“

*Women are told they are being dramatic or are given harder work to do if they complain. ~ Farmworker forum participant female, Umatilla County*

“

*Supervisors sometimes pressure women with sexual advances, but you can't do anything about it because the supervisor's word is always believed over the Farmworker's story. ~ Farmworker forum female participant, Umatilla County*



# Access to Resources

## Information and technology

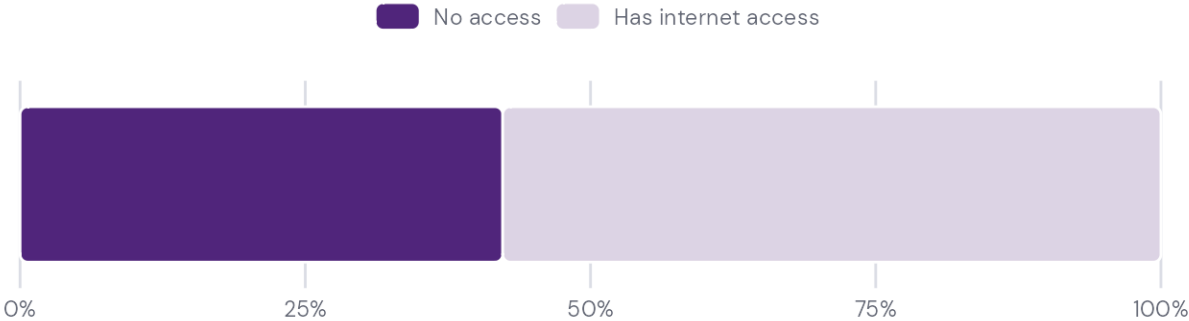
Farmworkers have a lot of barriers when it comes to finding information and are often unaware of programs that could help them. They're often uninformed about laws that can have long term impact on their livelihoods, like employment rights and how accessing public benefits can affect their legal status (due to public charge rules). Some of the barriers to information access that OHDC staff have noticed include:

- Lack of transportation
- Lack of internet or computer access
- Lack of access to social media
- Illiteracy (in English and/or Spanish)

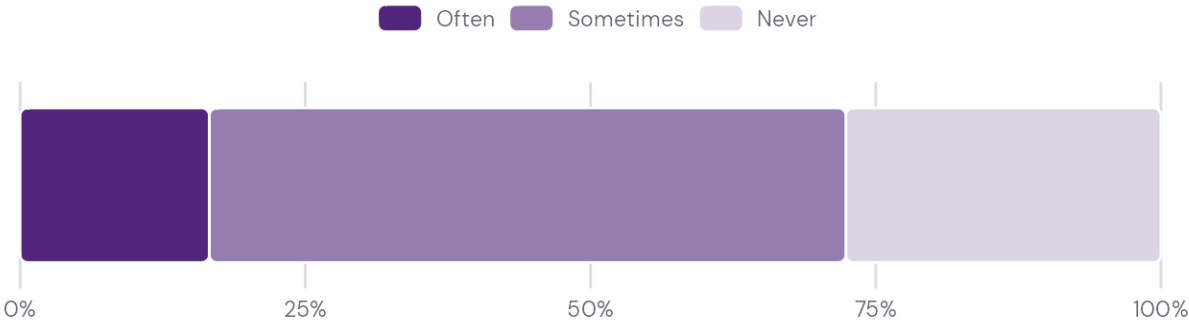


*Most of us hear of these resources with the help of our children... I know there are families who don't have children, they do not hear about your resources. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

### Only some of the Farmworkers we surveyed have access to the internet at home



### How often does poor internet access make it hard for Farmworkers to accomplish things they need to do?

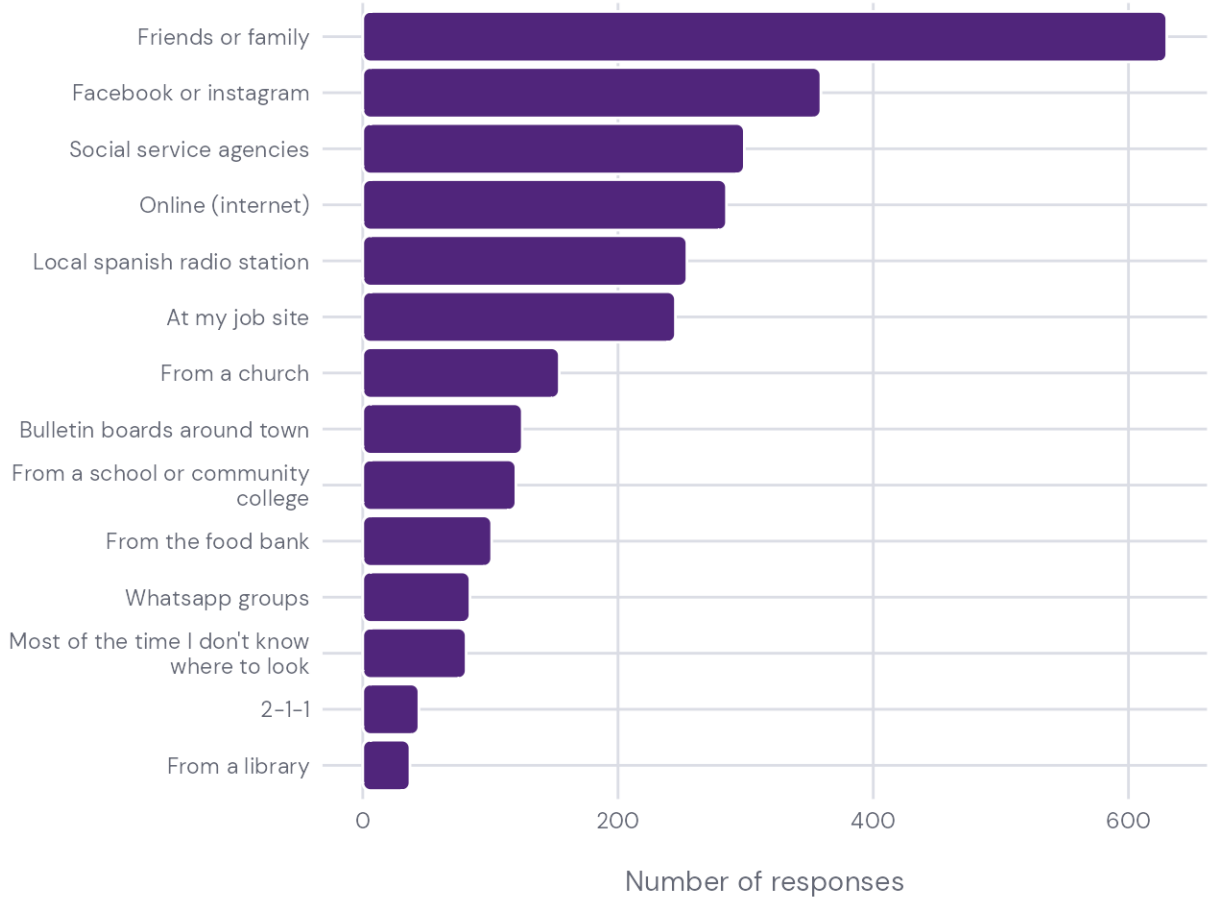


*There's a lack of resources like printing and faxes. Many of our families need to print stuff and they don't know where to find help. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

Despite limited access to technology and the internet, Farmworkers do seek out information about resources they need, and they identified sources they rely on most often during forums and surveys. More people get info from friends and family than any other source. Social service agencies are the next most popular source.



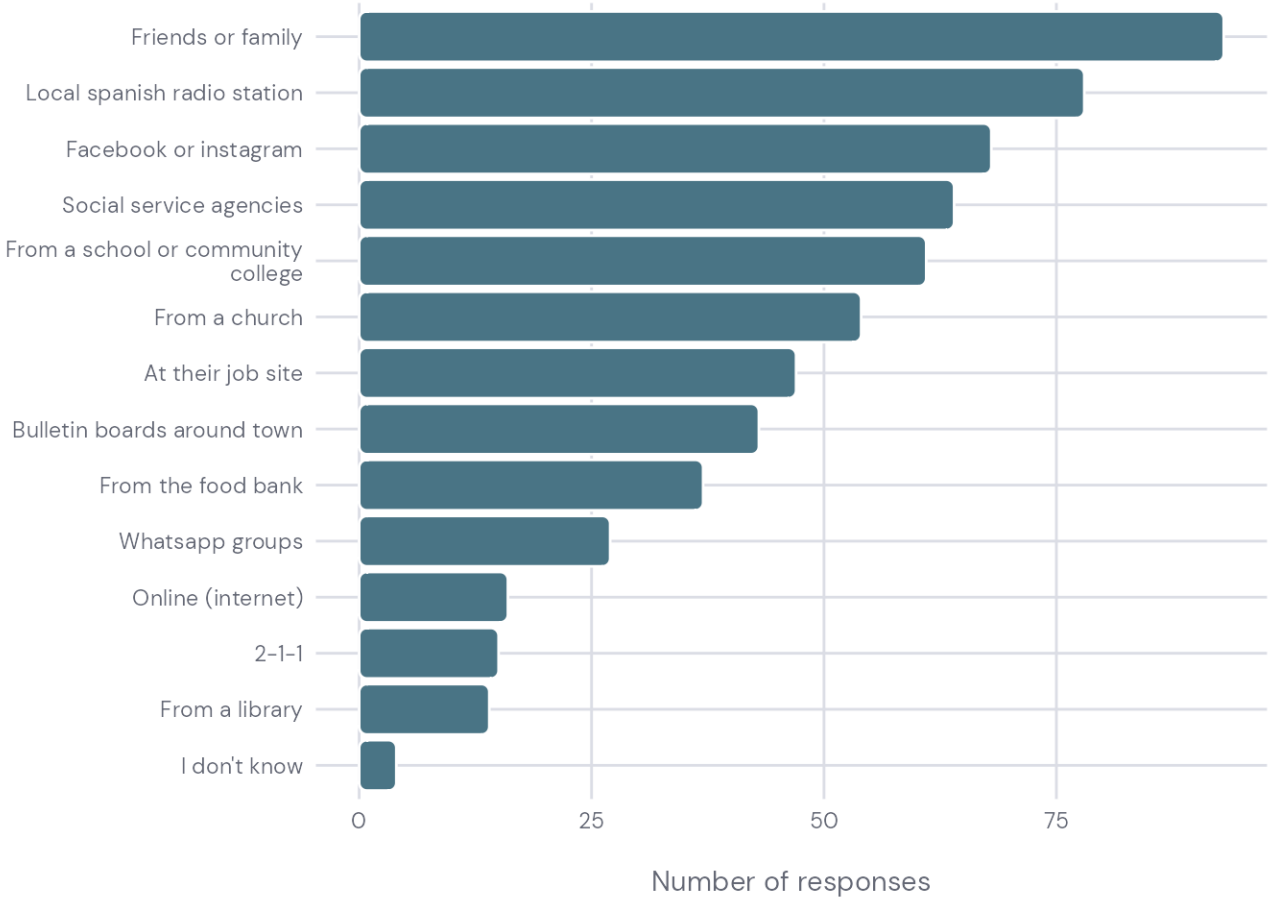
### Where Farmworkers find information about resources



Survey responses show that many Farmworkers do look for information online, which was not where most service providers thought they were looking. In addition to the most common places, Farmworkers said they get information from flyers at housing sites and Mexican stores, laundromats, county fairs and other public events. Some resources that have potential to connect more people with what they need, like libraries and the 2-1-1 info line, are used by very few Farmworkers.



### Where service providers have seen Farmworkers find information



County-specific info sources were also identified during Farmworker forums (see Appendix C: Resources and information sources identified by Farmworkers).

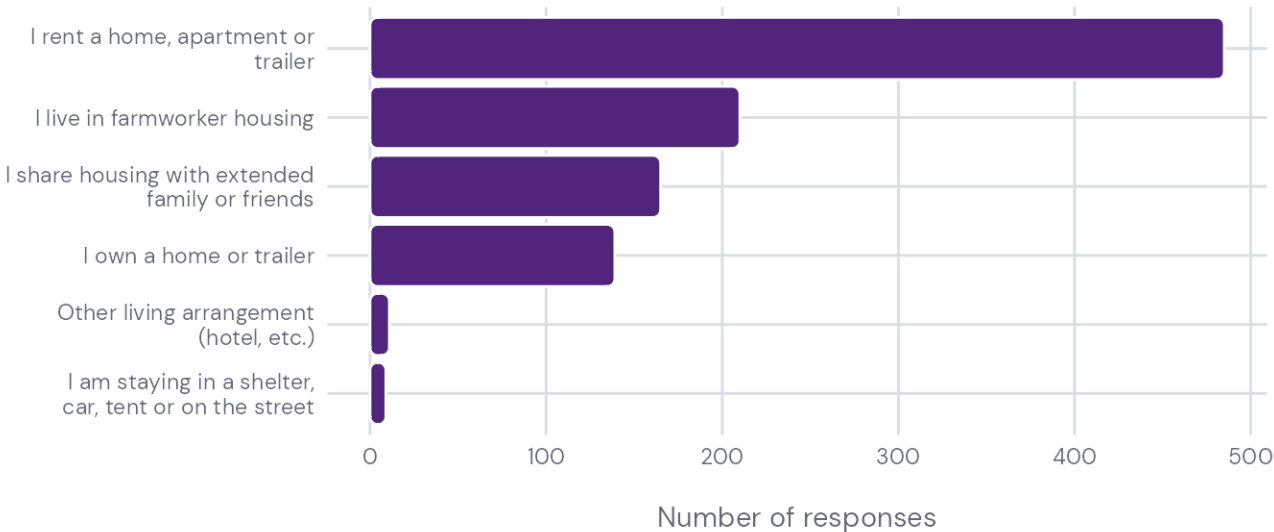




# Housing

Just 40% of Farmworkers own or are making payments on a house, condo or mobile home<sup>43</sup>. Most of our survey participants are renters and **11% of them are worried about losing their housing.**

## Farmworkers shared details about their housing situation



OHDC staff shared some of the housing issues they've seen, including each of the following concerns:

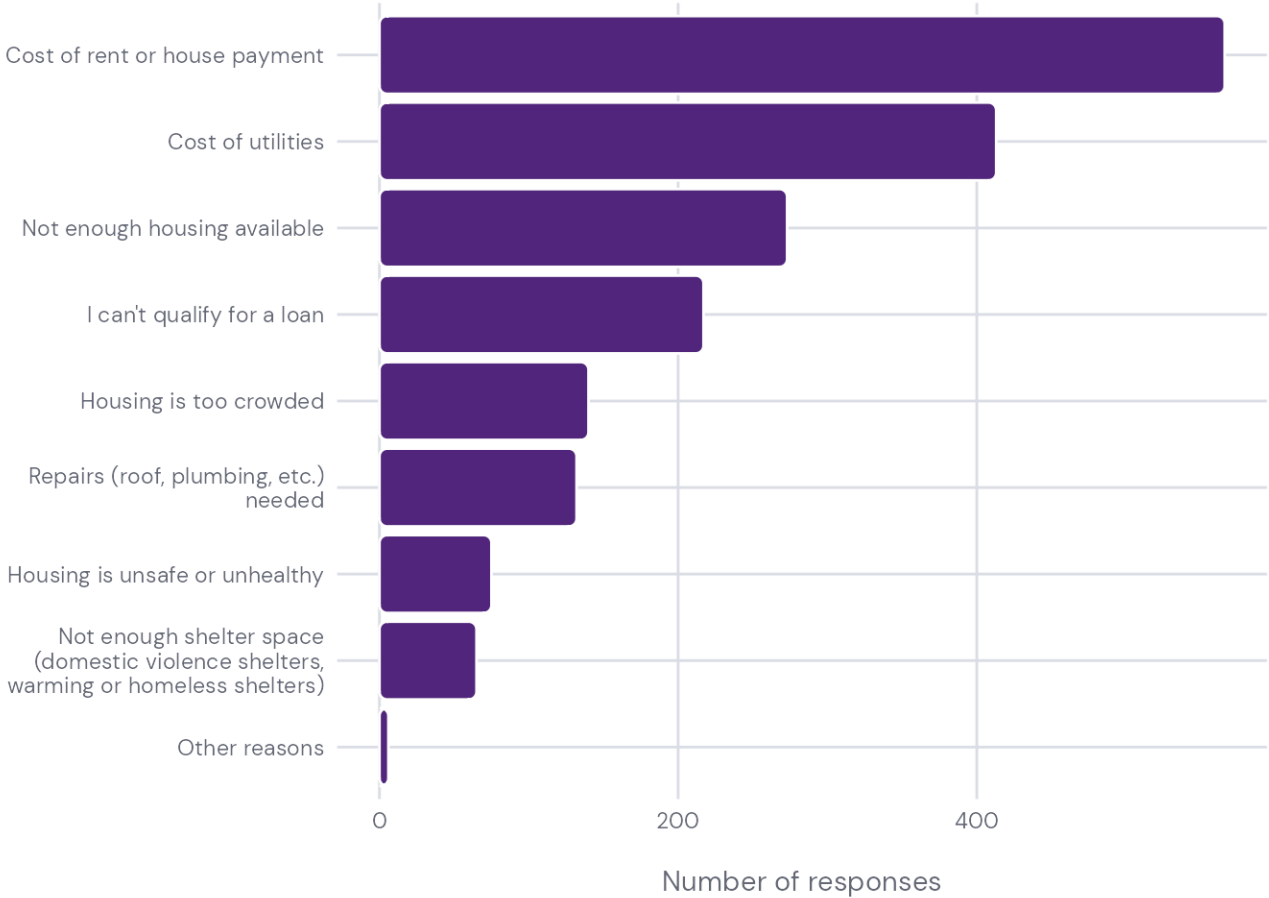
*Housing is often not available near job sites and is usually not affordable when it is. Programs offering assistance often have a long wait list and the income guidelines can be so low that struggling families cannot qualify. This results in overcrowded housing situations where multiple families share an apartment or home. Lack of knowledge about tenant rights has resulted in unlawful evictions and some Farmworkers have not sought rental assistance for fear of landlord retaliation. Some landlords take advantage of undocumented tenants, asking for cash payments and refusing to provide lease agreements or ledgers. Lack of shelter for migrant workers is also an issue.*

Farmworkers shared reasons housing is a problem for them, and the cost of housing and utilities were most concerning, followed by lack of availability and not being able to qualify for a loan.

<sup>43</sup>NAWS 2017-2018 Findings Report



### Why HOUSING is difficult for Farmworkers



“

*Housing is an issue for all Farmworkers – renting requires references. There’s not enough available. Cost is too high and multiple people crowd into very small living spaces. ~ Indigenous Oaxacan female, interview response*

“

*Housing is a big problem, there’s not much available and it’s too expensive. There is a lot of abuse – they rent rooms by the bed with four people in a room with bunk-beds. Sometimes it’s worse in the labor camps. ~ Indigenous Michoacano and Farmworker rights advocate in Jackson County, interview response*



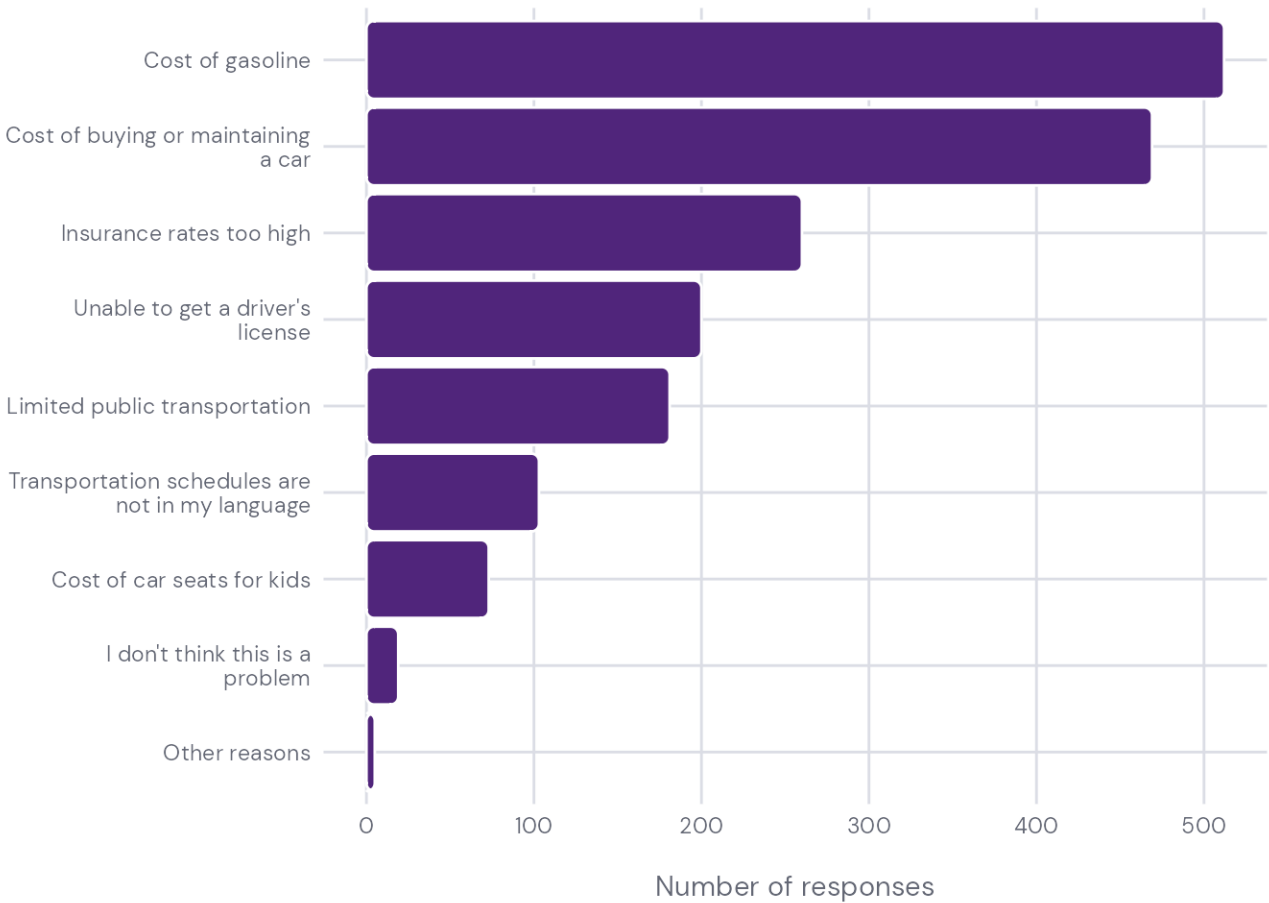


*Some families and children [living in Farmworker housing] have to shower outside their cabin in harsh weather and share bathrooms with adults [who are not part of their own family]. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Hood River County*

## Transportation

Forums and Focus Groups confirmed that Farmworkers living in rural areas have difficulties getting to medical appointments due to lack of public transportation. Transportation is also prohibitively expensive and drivers licenses are unobtainable for many Farmworkers, especially the undocumented. Staffing agencies often provide transportation but workers complain that the cost takes a large chunk out of their paycheck.

### Why TRANSPORTATION is difficult for farm workers



The top reasons Farmworkers say transportation is a problem are the cost of buying and maintaining a car and the price of gasoline.



## Childcare, Health and Food

An estimated three quarters of Farmworkers have dependents<sup>44</sup>. OHDC staff shared that they often lack access to childcare due to costs and long work hours. As a result, children are sometimes left home alone or taken to work to sit on the edge of fields or in vehicles while parents work. Nearly three quarters of our survey participants said they could use help finding affordable childcare.

“

*There's no understanding from supervisors. When I couldn't find childcare I spoke to our crew leader and he just said, "Stay home if you can't take care of your childcare problems." ~ Farmworker forum participant, Marion County*

Farmworker surveys from 2020 showed that women were responsible for childcare most of the time. Women also reported greater mental health challenges than men, like frustration, headaches and depression. **Over one third said they were depressed** and only 7% had access to mental health support. While men may not experience as much stress as women, over one fifth were depressed and only 4% of them had access to supports<sup>45</sup>. This is concerning, since recent studies suggest Farmworkers have a significantly higher rate of suicide than other workers<sup>46</sup>.

“

*You get anxiety and stress from not knowing when the next job will be. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Malheur County*

Stigma around mental health is common among Mexican immigrant communities, and culturally aware therapists, especially those who speak Spanish or Indigenous languages, are limited. At the same time, Farmworkers do physically intense jobs with long hours. This leaves little time for family or self care – important elements of mental health. Stress and worry related to providing for the family, deportation raids,

<sup>44</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>45</sup>Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study, September 2020

<sup>46</sup>Suicide mortality rates in farm-related occupations, 2021



discrimination and harassment were commonly shared at Farmworker forums – all of which are mental health risk factors as well.

“

*Disability is very taboo in Latinx community, mainly because it is not talked about and they don't know where to get resources. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

While facing high risk of chronic and work related illness compared to the general public<sup>47</sup>, Farmworkers continue to lack health insurance. National data from 2000 showed 85% of adult Farmworkers without coverage<sup>48</sup>, and nearly half the adults who visited health centers in 2019 still had no insurance<sup>49</sup>. 46% of our survey participants said they need a lot of help accessing healthcare or dentists, and another 32% need some help with this. In Oregon, children 18 years and under can qualify for full medical and dental coverage through the Oregon Health Plan regardless of immigration status. Starting July 1st this year, undocumented adults between 19–25 years and 55 and over will become eligible for the first time as well, but this is not well known by Farmworkers yet.

“

*[It's hard to find] low cost [insurance] benefits for families that don't qualify for a health plan because of their [legal] status. ~ OHDC staff survey response*

“

*High blood pressure and diabetes are common among Farmworkers, but they don't have insurance so they don't get medical care. Workers are exposed to chemicals at work and then get illnesses like cancer or have miscarriages but there's no data to prove these things are linked to their work. More research needs to be done. ~ Indigenous Michoacano and Farmworker rights advocate in Jackson County, interview response*

<sup>47</sup>Delivery of Health Services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, 2007

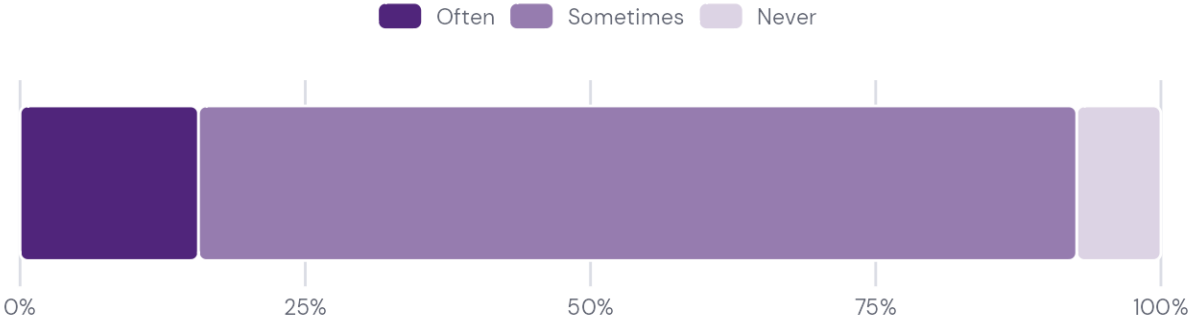
<sup>48</sup>Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers: Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care, 2005

<sup>49</sup>2019 Migratory & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Patients report



**28% of Farmworkers are experiencing food insecurity** according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture<sup>50</sup>. These families struggle to access healthy food, including culturally familiar foods they know how to cook. 96% of our survey participants said they need some or a lot of help getting enough healthy food and over three quarters worried they would run out of food last year.

**Most Farmworkers said they worried about running out of food**

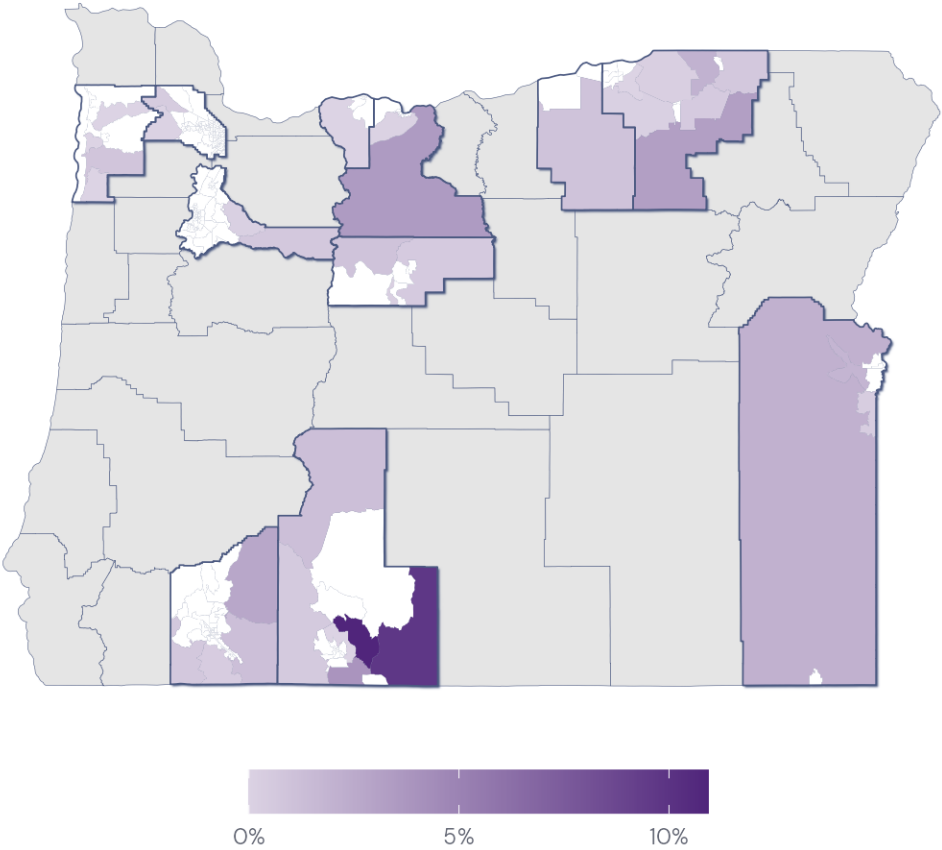


<sup>50</sup>USDA Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement



Farms are often located in rural areas, where markets can be far from Farmworkers' homes. These areas are considered *food deserts* and in some areas, like southeastern Klamath County, over 10% of the Latinx population live more than 10 miles from a supermarket, which is a significant barrier for those who struggle with transportation costs.

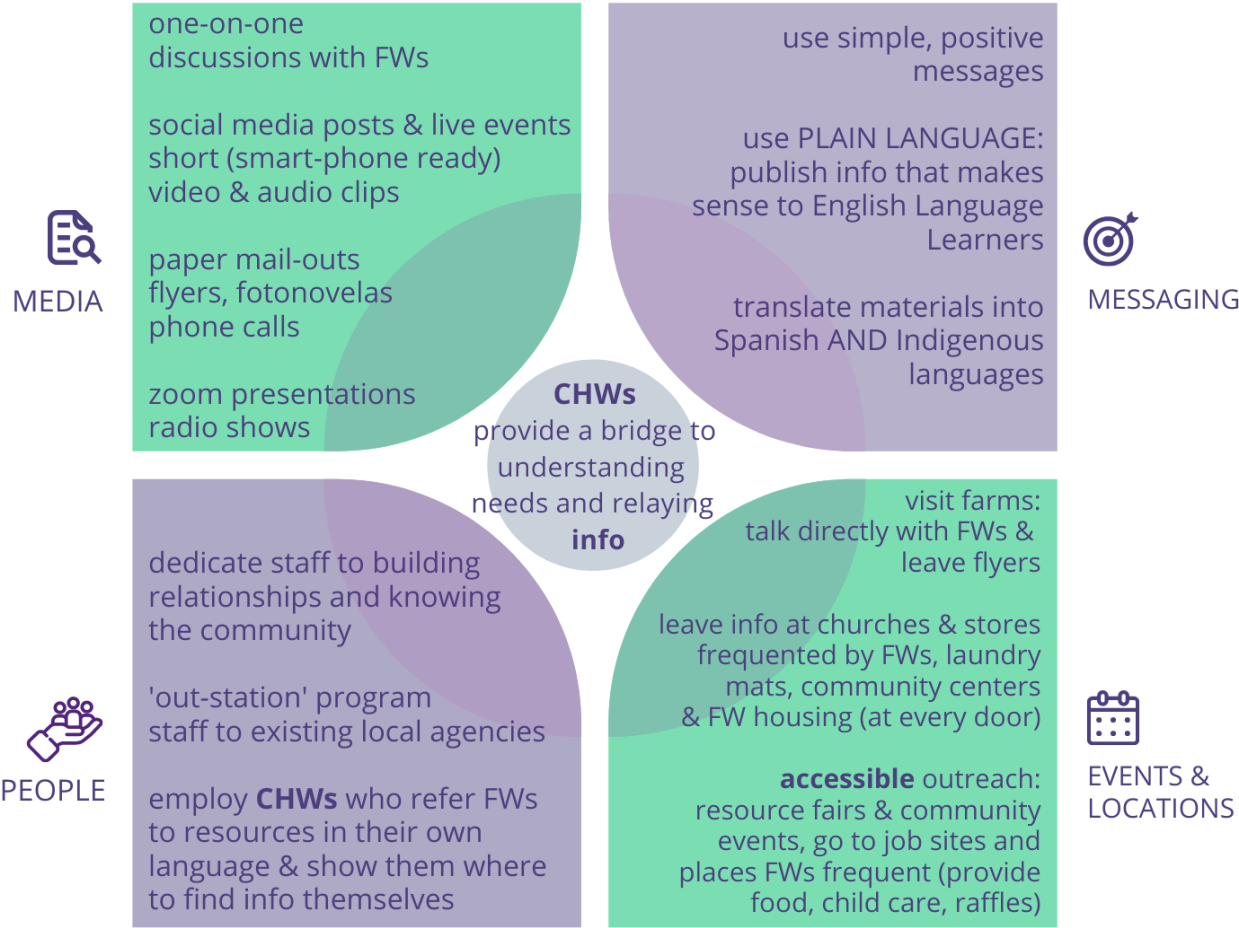
### Percent of Latinx population living in a Food Desert



# Communication Barriers and Education

Farmworkers are not easy to connect with, given their work schedules and cultural and linguistic differences. Partner agencies shared their most successful strategies for communicating with them. Their strategies, which relied on Community Health Workers (CHWs) and aligned well with how Farmworkers said they find information, are summarized in the following graphic.

## Strategies for connecting with Farmworkers (FWs)



Farmworkers want job training for safety and to build skills and advancement opportunities. They also recognize a general lack of knowledge about their rights and how to claim them.



*Safety training is needed for equipment and chemicals – if someone is injured they don't know where or how to get help. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Jefferson County*





“

*Mechanization is a new issue – drones and tractors with GPS all require computer background. There is a big Farmworker skills gap. ~ Farmworker representative at Marion County Employment Department, interview response*

But the most discussed barrier that can be addressed through education is language. For many Farmworkers, English is not their first language. Spanish is a common first language, but there are a lot of Indigenous workers who do not speak Spanish or English.

“

*[Many Farmworkers] need help filling out and completing forms for any type of support they might need electronically. Having a bilingual person helping them in completing forms verbally [is often needed]. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

“

*Disconnection among service organizations makes navigation for community members difficult and frustrating; lack of bilingual team members is a barrier. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

Many Indigenous languages have no written method and recent immigrants often have no connection to community based organizations except for churches. The Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study team suggested creative methods of sharing info without written materials, like short videos that can be viewed on cell phones and audio clips that explain rights and safety practices in plain language. They agree that CHWs are greatly needed to connect with Farmworkers, and that bilingual and trilingual youth from these communities can be identified and trained to do this work. They also stressed a need to collaborate with employers, supervisors and others who interact directly with workers and are responsible for providing safety instruction and support<sup>51</sup>. Digital literacy programs that help Farmworkers access technology (including providing smart phones and internet service stipends), were also recommended for improving communication with Farmworkers<sup>52</sup>.

<sup>51</sup>Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study press conference Q&A, Oct. 2020

<sup>52</sup>Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study, September 2020



“

*A lot of resources exist but Farmworkers don't know about it... like having money to pay rent or food. It's hard to reach out and connect with them because of language barriers and other things. So many immigrants use different languages and we don't even know what they are. Some of their languages are not written languages. ~ Indigenous Oaxacan service provider, former cannery worker, interview response*

“

*I wanted to emphasize the need for English classes. Most of our customers only know how to speak Spanish so they feel they can only apply for certain types of jobs. ~ OHDC partner survey response*



## Lack of Empowerment – legal challenges and fear

Legal status plays a large role in the lives of many Farmworkers. They're often afraid to seek help or information if they do not have work visas or citizenship – these workers are commonly called *undocumented* or *unauthorized*. The path to citizenship for undocumented Farmworkers can be long and confusing. Especially in more rural areas, they don't know who to turn to with immigration issues, or they have to travel to other parts of the state to find information or assistance. Many undocumented Farmworkers don't know which benefits they are eligible for and don't want to jeopardize future opportunities to gain legal status by applying for needed benefits like EBT (food stamps) or unemployment. Many are not eligible for the Oregon Health Plan either and often go without health insurance or care.

“

*We need to know about workers comp rights – people are afraid to report injuries at work so most workers pay for their own medical costs when an accident happens. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Marion County*

Farmworkers are often unaware of their civil or employment rights and do not know where to get legal assistance. Some focus group participants reported cases of notaries taking advantage of Farmworkers who are accustomed to filing taxes or dealing with other legal issues through notaries in Mexico, where they have a much bigger role in the legal system.

“

*There are big cultural differences and I think it's important for [Farmworkers] to know what things are and aren't acceptable or legal, etc. ~ OHDC partner survey response*

“

*We don't know what our rights are and don't know how to claim unpaid wages. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Marion County*

“

*Farmworkers need to know they have a right to be here and to live with dignity. ~ Partner focus group participant*



“

*[We need to] let workers know they have the right to speak up and no one is allowed to abuse them. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Umatilla County*

“

*Undocumented workers don't get the same benefits as those with documents. They get less pay and have heavier workloads. They don't have rights or a voice. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Umatilla County*

Federal law denies the Earned Income Tax Credit to the entire household if one member uses an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number – which is how undocumented workers report their taxes. In shutting out “mixed-status” households, this policy undermines the goal of reducing poverty among lower-paid households<sup>53</sup>.

Immigration raids and arrests weigh heavily on these families as well. Children of undocumented parents, most of whom are U.S. citizens, suffer psychologically and financially when a parent enters the deportation process and can no longer bring income to the household<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup>Tax credit for workers leaves out more than a quarter-million Oregonians, OCPP 2021

<sup>54</sup>Deportation harms Oregon's economy and upends family security, OCPP 2021



# Solutions Identified

Farmworker forum participants shared their vision for a sustainable future, where families are healthy and can be economically self-sufficient. This vision is grouped into 5 self-sufficiency themes that can be strengthened through collaboration and systems change: Employment Justice, Education, Resources, Empowerment and Leadership.

“

*The only way to help people is to really listen to the community itself. It's so easy for people in positions of power, who have never worked these jobs, to not understand how bad the conditions are. Food vouchers can only help you so much. Help people know how to lobby for better job laws and standards. We need policy change. ~ Male college student, former Farmworker, Umatilla County interview response*

**1 Employment Justice**

Employers pay living wages and do not exploit workers. Laws are in place and enforced to ensure overtime pay, sick leave, collective bargaining and other benefits. FWs know how much break time they're entitled to and can access clean bathrooms during breaks. Frequent job site OSHA inspections ensure hygiene and safety rules.

**2 Education**

FWs learn their rights and know how to claim them (workers comp, discrimination, etc). English and job skills classes are affordable and available after work hours. Job safety training becomes the norm. Youth opportunities and education programs are abundant. Supervisors are trained on human and employee rights, and are expected to treat workers with fairness & respect.

**3 Resources**

Public transportation targets FW needs (routes, languages, etc). Home ownership programs and affordable housing options are accessible to all. Services are easy to find and qualify for when needed - like legal aid, rent, food and medical assistance. Child care is affordable and available during work hours. Info is published in relevant FW languages and distributed widely (job sites, churches, social media, radio, etc).

**4 Empowerment**

FWs lose their fear of asking questions about legal issues, rights and public services - they seek out reliable sources of information and accept help when they need it. Agencies & allies help FWs reveal needs and spur action to address them. Rights are understood and a clear path to legal status is developed.

**5 Leadership & Unity**

FWs attend community forums & events to share concerns and ideas. They speak up for themselves and report injustices. Information sharing among FWs is the norm and there is mutual trust and support. Community organizing and state-wide connections build FW influence and lead to meaningful change.



OHDC staff and partners who work closely with Farmworkers acknowledged that fundamental **Systems Change** is needed to improve lives and bring Farmworker families out of poverty for the long term. Their ideas for bringing Systems Change can be grouped into 5 action areas that relate closely to the vision mapped out by Farmworkers: Rights training, Education, Agency Collaboration, Shifting the Cultural Mindset, and Leadership Development.



*Create more housing for field workers. Create a path to legalization for undocumented. Increase salaries. Federal and state governments need to make laws to protect workers and then employ enough people to enforce those laws. ~ Indigenous Michoacano and Farmworker rights advocate in Jackson County, interview response*

**PARTNER AGENCIES MAPPED OUT A PATH to bring Farmworkers out of poverty**

Farmworkers (FWs) struggle with time & transportation. Schedule classes and outreach when FWs are not working and at places they regularly go to.

# 5 ways to change the system

**CBO** = Community Based Org  
**ELL** = English Language Learner  
**HEP** = Highschool Equivalency Program

**Service workers** = CBO & service agency staff, including Community Health Workers (CHWs)

**1**

**Rights Training for FWs, supervisors & policy makers**

Inform FWs on employment rights, civil rights, citizenship options & legal requirements. Ensure farm supervisors know FW rights and legal repercussions. Include politicians in CBO initiatives & coalitions - teach them about FW issues and how government agency actions affect FWs so they can influence policy appropriately.

**2**

**Education**

Build strong, sustainable learning support networks for FW families that engage parents and teach ELL classes for all ages. Citizenship prep, HEP & GED classes in Spanish, outside of farm work hours. Industrial skills & farm tech classes. Show FWs how to make claims that get addressed (workers comp, discrimination, abuse, etc).

**3**

**Agency Collaboration**

Build trust with FWs by working with local CBOs. Strengthen inter-agency communication systems, provide 'wrap-around services' & create a well known 'one-stop-shop' so FWs easily find all info & supports they need. Share a unified process for service workers and paralegals to connect FWs with assistance (legal aid, rent, workers comp & discrimination claims, etc). Use inter-agency strength to pressure government agencies to enforce farm safety and H-2A employment rules.

**4**

**Shift the Cultural Mindset**

Showcase the importance of FWs & the work they do. De-construct false beliefs about immigrants (like the notion that they 'steal our jobs' or don't pay taxes). Create opportunities for FWs to share their stories. Target employers, politicians, FW supervisors and FWs themselves. Build hope & promote mental health awareness among FWs.

**5**

**FW Leadership Development**

Foster peer leadership, advocates & CHWs to connect FWs with resources & provide counseling in FW languages. Create a support system that empowers FWs to build their capacity & believe in themselves - to help other FWs build self worth & connect with resources. Advocate for local & state policy changes.



“

*Find people who can contact Farmworkers in their own language. Some of them are not written languages but you can still use radio, social media, and phone apps. Figure out what languages people are using – go out to places where Farmworkers gather to offer help. Spend time with them. It’s hard for Farmworkers to believe that you’re there to help them, but giving a little cash assistance can go a long way and building trust over time helps them open up. We have lots of resources but we don’t have the right process for getting them to people. The best thing we can do is to keep working together. Referrals and knowledge about programs and resources we can all share with Farmworkers is very important. ~ Indigenous Oaxacan female Farmworker advocate, Marion County interview response*



# Conclusion

Farmworker data is not available on many levels. To build a clear understanding of Farmworker demographics and needs, as well as the languages they speak, additional research will be required. Existing data does show that the causes of poverty among Farmworkers are numerous, and rooted in complex historical inequities. Nearly all of the resulting needs share two themes: a call for trained **Community Health Workers** (promotores, navigators or CHWs), and **agency collaboration**. Many needs call for policy change and education as well, both of which can be advanced through collaboration and CHW involvement. Needs that can be targeted to move Farmworkers away from poverty are presented in the following Needs Summary Table. Needs are grouped into five self-sufficiency themes that were envisioned during Farmworker forums: Employment, Education, Resources, Empowerment and Leadership. They are not arranged in order of importance, since all 16 of them are pressing, but the needs identified most frequently by Farmworkers include all **Employment related needs, English classes and Translation services, Information access, and Legal assistance**.

Several strategies for addressing identified needs are presented in the Recommendations section. They are based on Farmworker and service provider input, and can be used to inform strategic planning. Recommendations are aimed at generating lasting Systems Change that will support Farmworkers in reaching their vision of self-sufficiency.





## Needs Summary Table

### Employment

Need	Key Building Blocks
Workplace health and safety improvement	Collaboration with legal aid providers, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides and CHWs – to inform workers and employers about safety requirements, rights, Workers Compensation insurance and how to make claims. Advocacy for government agencies to enforce existing requirements, and for adequate bathroom facilities and breaks.
Worker exploitation, discrimination & sexual harassment reduction	Collaboration with legal aid providers and CHWs – to educate workers and employers about human rights and discrimination laws, and how to make claims. Advocacy for government agencies to enforce existing laws and respond to claims.
Income & benefits improvement	Collaboration with Employers, legislators and food systems organizations to develop sustainable farm models and subsidies. Job training to facilitate career advancement opportunities. CHWs (trained on public benefits and public charge rules) who connect Farmworkers with government benefits.

### Education

Need	Key Building Blocks
Digital literacy support & classes	CHWs and technology course facilitators, internet and computer access
English language classes & translation services	CHWs and experienced language teachers, Spanish translators and Indigenous languages translators
Rights education	CHWs, paralegals and others knowledgeable in human rights, employment and immigration laws and claims systems
Job skills training	Employer, college and Farmworker input to identify most valued skills and skills gaps, CHWs and other trained educators



## Resources

Need	Key Building Blocks
Information & technology	CHWs who connect Farmworkers with information/resources, Internet access & digital literacy, translation services
Housing	Housing opportunity navigators (CHWs), utility assistance, rent assistance, advocacy for safe Farmworker housing, tenant rights and accessible housing
Transportation	Safe ride-share coordination, drivers license attainment assistance, expanded public transportation (with schedules in Spanish and Indigenous languages)
Childcare	Affordable options, near Farmworker housing, open during farm working hours
Health	CHWs (trained on dental, physical and mental healthcare navigation, Oregon Health Plan eligibility, and mental health stigma reduction) who connect Farmworkers with resources. Advocacy to increase availability of culturally informed providers and translators who speak Farmworker languages.
Food	CHWs (trained on food access, nutrition and gardening) who connect Farmworkers with resources

## Empowerment and Leadership

Need	Key Building Blocks
Legal assistance	CHWs who connect Farmworkers with existing legal aid organizations, paralegals and others knowledgeable in human rights, employment and immigration laws and claims systems
Financial planning assistance	CHWs and other financial planning course facilitators
Leadership development	CHWs, venues and facilitated opportunities for Farmworkers to share their stories, to connect with each other and with policy makers



# Recommendations



## Communicate with Farmworkers

No one knows more about what Farmworkers need than they do themselves. Use multiple strategies to communicate regularly with them – refer to **Strategies for connecting with Farmworkers** infographic (Communication Barriers section of this report). Invite them to share their stories and opinions. Employ Community Health Workers (promotores) who speak Farmworker languages to help find and connect with Farmworkers. Continue talking with Farmworkers and those who work with them to ensure each county is providing the services they’re asking for.



*Forums like this where we are listened to and information is shared should be taken to Farmworkers out in the field. It's good to be heard. ~ Farmworker forum participant, Washington County*

OHDC staff suggested moving toward more active client case management with systems to ensure clients exit services with a baseline of self-sufficiency. They also suggested bringing a lawyer or paralegal on staff so families can be comfortable asking for legal guidance at OHDC, instead of sending clients to other organizations where they may not feel safe opening up. Alternatively, this could be accomplished through focused partner collaboration. Collaboration is also needed to build an information delivery network that makes it easy for Farmworkers to learn about rights and services.





## Collaborate to Provide Resources

Resources and services are inventoried regularly by partner organizations, but these resource lists are not always easy to find and quickly become outdated. Collaborate with partners in each county to develop a searchable, comprehensive guide that's easy to access and keep updated. Publish the guide in Spanish and, when possible, in Indigenous languages.

Team up with partners to leverage funding, reduce duplicated services and reach more people. Employ Community Health Workers who speak Farmworker languages and refer people to services, healthcare and mental healthcare providers. Consider ideas shared by partners (see Appendix D: Collaboration Opportunities), and seek out collaborations that address identified needs, such as:

- Partnering with organizations that have programs for Indigenous populations, like Pueblo Unido, to better understand and address Indigenous Farmworker needs
- Fostering partnerships with faith groups, churches and schools – especially for sharing information about resources and programs
- Working with financial institutions to help families with home purchasing and provide more credit and budgeting classes
- Communicating with the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to inform new transportation strategies
- Partnering with organizations like the Center for Public Policy to publish and promote facts that demonstrate the value of Farmworkers – like significant tax contributions undocumented Farmworkers make in each county<sup>55</sup>
- Partnering with paralegals from organizations like Oregon Law Center or Legal Aid Services of Oregon to bring information about rights and claims to Farmworkers
- Partnering with community colleges and other agencies to offer and refer Farmworkers to job training and English language courses
- Working with the Oregon Health Authority and other organizations to let Farmworkers know which benefits they are eligible for and how to apply – like Oregon Health Plan insurance, which covers undocumented youth and, starting in July 2022, will also cover undocumented adults 19–25 or 55 or older.
- Connecting the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department with Farmworkers' concerns and linking Farmworkers with existing and new resources the agency is developing.
- Partnering with government agencies or other safety focused organizations like Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides to bring more health and safety trainings to work sites

<sup>55</sup>Undocumented workers pay millions in Oregon taxes, OCPP 2017



Continue to foster relationships with employers to build a culture of respecting workers, and to provide resource info, and safety and job skills trainings in Farmworker languages. Relationships OHDC's Umatilla/Morrow office has built with regional farm staffing agencies can be used as a model: program information provided by OHDC is available at agency offices, OHDC is able to host Farmworker gatherings onsite, agency representatives attend OHDC events and donate items to incentivize Farmworkers to attend.



## Policy Advocacy & Leadership Development

Multiple groups are working to advance Farmworker justice through leadership and policy change in Oregon. Support these groups and the legislative priorities they identify to help advance **Systems Change** and raise Farmworkers out of poverty. Some of the most active advocacy groups to work with, all of which include Farmworkers or immigrants in their campaigns and leadership, include:

- Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), which recently helped get a Farmworker Overtime bill passed through the Oregon Congress
- United Farm Workers (Hermiston office)
- UNETE Center for Farmworker Advocacy
- Oregon Latinx Leadership Network
- Oregon Center for Public Policy, skilled in providing compelling facts to support policy change campaigns
- Oregon Food Bank

Partner with any of these organizations to bring more Farmworker voices to the table to boost leadership and strengthen policy change efforts. Facilitate local leadership development opportunities (Farmworker led coalitions, support participation in advisory boards, school boards, etc.), in collaboration with regional partners who focus on leadership (Legal Aid Services of Oregon expressed interest in partnering on this). Boost moral and hope through story telling – promote the value of Farmworkers in the broader community.



*The Democratic Party has been supportive of Farmworker policy advocacy, like the work UNETE and others did to get overtime pay for Farmworkers. OSHA and BOLI are also helpful with claims of abuse, but they don't have enough staff to meet the need so a lot of regulations are not followed. ~ Indigenous Michoacano Farmworker rights advocate in Jackson County, interview response*





## Education

Show Farmworkers how to access existing, yet underutilized, sources of information, like the 2-1-1 info line and local libraries.

Provide job skills training, English and digital literacy classes and support for Farmworkers. Inform Farmworkers, employers and supervisors about Farmworker rights and how to claim benefits and make claims regarding safety, discrimination, abuse.

Educate the general public, employers and Farmworkers themselves about their value, including the value of undocumented workers. Engage Farmworkers to share their stories and build mutual understanding.

“

*Train older workers that the skills they have can be taught to others - when they leave those skills are gone. Not a lot of employers invest in making sure that knowledge is shared - we need to teach the employer that they should pay veteran workers to train new workers. Chemeketa Community college could provide more ESL, then offer industrial ESL with job training. ~ Farmworker representative at Marion County Employment Department, interview response*

“

*Bring more assistance and more orientations about Farmworker rights. I would like it if this information was brought to temporary work agencies, where immigrant Farmworkers work. ~ Female, Latina Farmworker, Umatilla County interview response*





## Engage Employers

Farmworkers and partner organizations recognize a need to work with employers and farm supervisors to change the way workers are treated.

While *“it’s hard to find a farm or packing house that treats their workers well,”* according to one Farmworker advocate, some do provide benefits and aim to provide good working conditions and housing. The director of Gorge Grown Food Network shared multiple stories of farmers who go *“above and beyond to honor Farmworkers”* in the Columbia Gorge region.

Farmers, especially family farms with labor intensive crops, struggle to keep their farms economically viable. Some Oregon farmers claim that labor costs comprise the largest farm expense, so raising worker salaries and upgrading Farmworker housing can be difficult.

**Engage** with farm owners and employers to shift cultural dynamics, and to identify farm sustainability practices that support workers too. Investigate and share innovative programs with employers, like the Equitable Food Initiative, that ensure just food production practices. **Promote worker health and safety measures** among employers.



## Support Farmworker Research

Farmworker demographics and their living conditions are not well understood. Studies to measure the number of workers and their dependents, the languages they speak, as well as poverty by gender, age and ethnicity are needed. More information about how farm labor affects workers and their families, and how different workplace interventions may improve wellbeing are also needed.

Support revision of Farmworker enumeration study methods for future estimates of population size, average household size, the percent of farmworkers who travel alone, and the Indigenous population.

Supporting the development of a center for Farmworker research rooted in collaborative, community-based research, as recommended in the recent Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Study, could leverage existing funder interest.



# Appendices

## Appendix A: Methodology

Several types of data were used in this report:

1. Surveys, forums and interviews conducted with Farmworkers
2. Surveys, focus groups and interviews conducted with OHDC staff and agency partners
3. Public data that provides demographic, poverty and infrastructure context for Farmworkers in Oregon

Needs Assessment planning and data collection activities were conducted by Colibri Consulting and OHDC staff from August–December 2021. Data analysis and interpretation was completed by Colibri Consulting and R for the Rest of Us from December 2021–March 2022. This included:

- **Qualitative data** compilation and analysis from Farmworker forums and discussions, interviews, focus groups and surveys described in the Needs Assessment Data section of this appendix. Connections between assets, needs and potential solutions were identified.
- **Quantitative data** compilation, analysis and comparison to qualitative results (to identify similarities and differences between the two). Data came from surveys collected during this assessment, and public data sources described in the Public Data section of this appendix.
- Data analysis and visualizations were produced using R statistical computing and graphics software.

## Needs Assessment Data

After an initial in-person planning session with OHDC supervisors, additional team planning, interviews and focus groups were conducted by phone or online zoom gatherings. Farmworker forums and small group discussions were facilitated in person, with food and incentives (gift/resource bags, raffles, etc.) provided. Activities included:

- 1 OHDC Regional Supervisors assessment planning meeting, number of participants (N)=7.
- 2 OHDC Leaders focus groups: One focus group for preliminary (pre-survey) definition of Farmworker needs and assets, N= 7. One focus group for assessment findings review and recommendations approval, N=11.





1 OHDC all-staff focus group: to define Farmworker needs and assets, N=30.

- 1 partner focus group, N=34 (including representatives from public and private sector organizations, educational institutions, and community based organizations, plus 7 OHDC team members): to compile best practices for communicating with Farmworkers, and collaborative strategies to address Farmworker needs.
- OHDC Staff Surveys, N=19. Delivered online.
- Partner surveys, N=46. Online surveys distributed through emails to partner agency contacts.
- Farmworker Surveys, N=948 (for a statewide population of 172,611 this gives a 95% confidence level, with 3.2 margin of error). Paper and online surveys were distributed by OHDC staff and partner organizations throughout the service area in both Spanish and English, 89% were completed in Spanish. See Appendix F: Farmworker Survey Questions.
- 10 key informant interviews: 9 Farmworkers currently or previously involved in farm work, 5 of whom are migrant workers. Three of the 10 interviewees are Farmworker advocates who work directly with Farmworkers through Marion County Employment Department, UNETE and Legal Aid Services of Oregon, 2 of whom are Indigenous.
- 10 Farmworker input sessions (six 75-minute forums and four 30-minute group discussions, involving a total of 131 Farmworkers):
  - Hood River County: 1 forum, N=8
  - Jefferson and Deschutes Counties: 1 forum, N=28
  - Malheur County: 1 forum, N=15
  - Marion County: 1 forum, N=16; 3 group discussions, N=23, N=10, N=9
  - Wasco County: 1 group discussion, N=2
  - Washington County: 1 forum, N=11
  - Umatilla and Morrow Counties: 1 forum, N=9

## Public Data

### DEMOGRAPHICS DATA

As mentioned throughout the report, there is little public data available that focuses specifically on farmworkers. As a result, much of the public data used is on the Latinx population as a whole. This is, of course, less than ideal, but is also a reflection of the need for additional data collection on Farmworker populations.



**Total population** data comes from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), table B01003\_001. This and all ACS data below comes from the 2019 five-year estimates.

We also have data on the **total population of farmworkers and their dependents** from from the United States Department of Agriculture 2017 Census of Agriculture<sup>56</sup>.

Data on the **age distribution of farmworkers** comes from the Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update<sup>57</sup>.

Data on the **legal status of the Latino population** comes from ACS table B05003.

Data on **age and gender of farmworkers** comes from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service Farm Labor Data service<sup>58</sup>.

Data on legal status of farmworkers comes from the Migration Policy Institute's Profile of the Unauthorized Population[Λmpi-estimate].

Data on **languages spoken** comes from several sources:

2017–2021 Oregon Justice Department language interpretation requests, 2018–2022 Oregon Migrant Education Program data showing Indigenous languages spoken by migrant students, and 2021 COVID–19 Farmworker Study data<sup>59</sup>.

Data on **education levels** comes from ACS subject table S1501. This gives us overall graduation rates among the Latinx population in Oregon.

We also calculated **graduation rates among migrant students** in Oregon using data from the Oregon Department of Education Office of Migrant Education<sup>60</sup>.

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<sup>56</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture

<sup>57</sup>Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Agriculture, 2018 Update

<sup>58</sup>United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service Farm Labor Data service

<sup>59</sup>Oregon COVID–19 Farmworker Study, September 2020

<sup>60</sup>Oregon Department of Education Office of Migrant Education



## POVERTY DATA

We collected multiple pieces of data related to poverty, including:

**Poverty data by ethnicity** (100% of federal poverty level) from ACS subject table S1701.

Because poverty data under represents people who actually live in poverty, we also collected **Self-Sufficiency data**. This comes from the report Overlooked & Undercounted 2021: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Oregon<sup>61</sup>.

Data on **unemployment** as a whole comes from the Current Population Survey<sup>62</sup>.

Data on **average hourly wages for farm work** comes from the USDA<sup>63</sup>.

Data on **health insurance** comes from the Oregon Health Insurance Survey<sup>64</sup>.

## INFRASTRUCTURE DATA

Data on **internet access** among Farmworkers comes from combining two sources: FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Data<sup>65</sup> and the employer database from the state of Oregon<sup>66</sup>. By combining these two sources, we create a rough estimate of internet speeds available to Farmworkers in Oregon.

We collected data on **food deserts** from the USDA Economic Research Service<sup>67</sup>.

We also collected **data on farms** from the USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture<sup>68</sup>. This includes total acres of farmland, number of farms, and top 3 commodities in each county.

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<sup>61</sup>Overlooked and Undercounted 2021

<sup>62</sup>Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

<sup>63</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

<sup>64</sup>Oregon Health Insurance Survey

<sup>65</sup>FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Data

<sup>66</sup>State of Oregon Employer Database Oregon

<sup>67</sup>USDA Economic Research Service

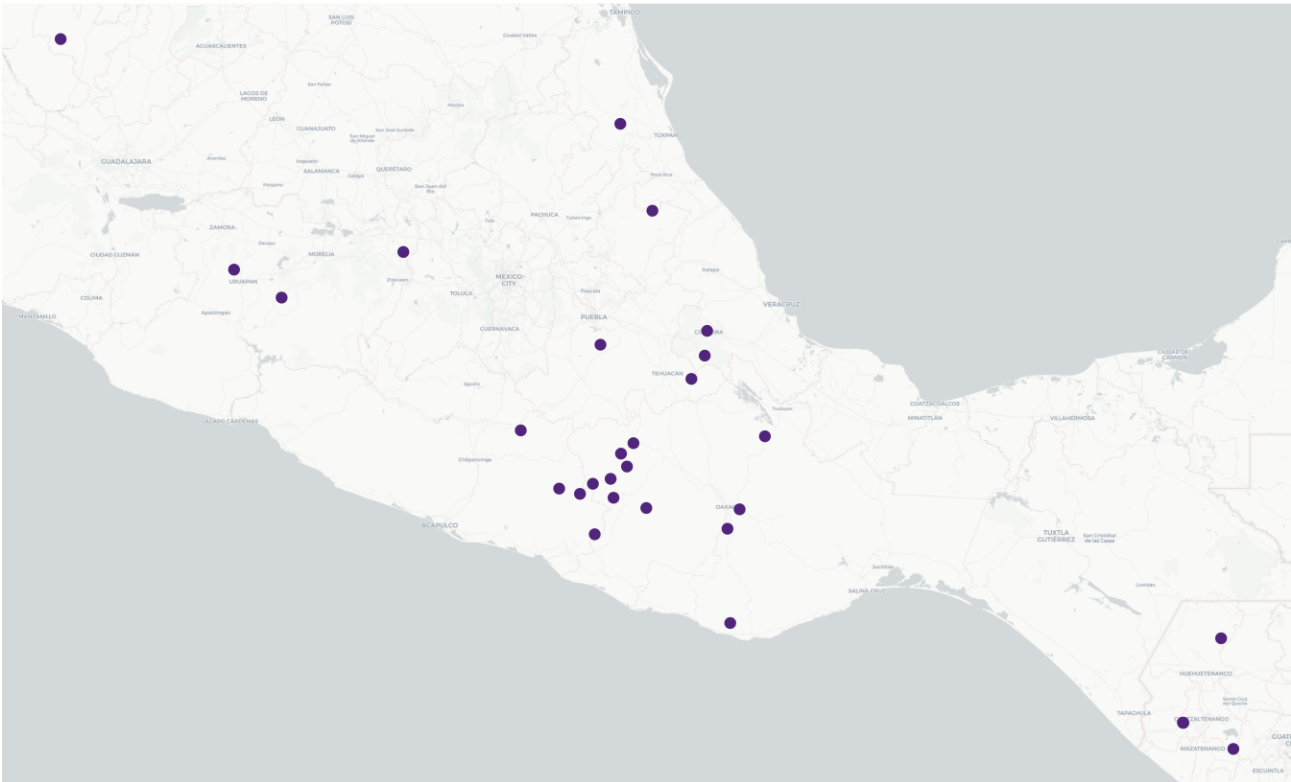
<sup>68</sup>USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture



# Appendix B: Indigenous languages spoken by Farmworkers

Indigenous languages spoken by Oregon Farmworkers interviewed during the 2021 COVID-19 Farmworker Study can be traced to several locations in Mexico, and a few in Guatemala.

## Origins of identified Indigenous languages



Eight of the eleven counties we assessed are home to people who speak languages that are indigenous to Mexico or Guatemala. Indigenous languages in these counties were identified using 2017–2021 Oregon Justice Department language interpretation requests, 2018–2022 Oregon Migrant Education Program language data, and 2021 COVID-19 Farmworker Study data. OHDC staff estimate (roughly) between 30–45% of Farmworkers are Indigenous in four of the assessed counties: Marion, Morrow, Umatilla and Washington. In the other seven counties the proportion was unknown or estimated to be less than 1% of all Farmworkers. No Indigenous languages were identified in three of the counties we assessed: Jefferson, Klamath and Wasco.



	Hood River	Jackson	Malheur	Marion	Morrow	Tillamook	Umatilla	Washington
Acateco (Akatek)							✓	
Akateko			✓	✓				✓
Amuzgo				✓				
Chol								✓
Chuj				✓			✓	✓
Cora			✓					
Hiuchol							✓	
Kaychiquel							✓	
Mam	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mixteco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Mixteco Alto				✓				
Mixteco Bajo				✓			✓	✓
Nahuatl				✓	✓		✓	✓
Popti								✓
Purepecha				✓				✓
Q'Anjobal				✓			✓	✓
Q'eqchi				✓				✓
Quiche (K'iche)				✓	✓		✓	✓
Tlapaneco							✓	
Trique			✓	✓				✓
Tzotzil				✓				
Yucatec Maya						✓		✓
Zapoteco		✓		✓			✓	✓

The most frequently identified languages included:

**Marion County:** Chuj, Mam, Mixteco, Zapoteco. **Morrow County:** Quiche. **Umatilla County:** Mam, Q'Anjobal, Quiche. **Washington County:** Chuj, Mixteco, Q'Anjobal, Q'eqchi, Quiche.



## Appendix C: Resources and information sources identified by Farmworkers

Resources and information sources listed here were identified by Farmworkers during forums, small group discussions and interviews. Farmworkers from seven counties participated in forums and discussions.

Hood River
Bulletin boards
CAT bus
Churches
Community Action
Community events (parades and fairs)
Community gardens
County Fair
DHS
Fair grounds
Fish food bank
Flyers distributed to apartments
Friends and family
Health care clinics
Health Department
Information shared by supervisors and employers
Libraries
Local social service offices
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority
Mid-Columbia Children's Council
OHDC
Radio
Schools
Social media (FB, Whatsapp)
The Next Door
Welfare office



**Jefferson**

211

Bus-public transit

Church

Facebook

Hospital

Latino Community Association

Libraries

Neighborhood Impact

OHDC

Public park

WIC

**Malheur**

Bulletin boards

Community in Action housing programs

DHS

Energy assistance programs

Euvalcuree

Facebook

Flyers

Food stamps

Friends and family

GED and English classes

HEP and CAMP educational program

Information shared at job sites

Internet

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Migrant program

OCDL daycare

OHDC

Oregon Law Center

Public parks



**Malheur**

Public transportation (limited)

Radio

School food

School letters

Valley Family Health clinic service discounts

**Marion**

211

After school program

AWARE Food bank

Chemeketa Community College

Childcare centers for FW families

Churches

Clinics provide discount for FW parents

Counseling for kids

Facebook

Food bank

Health coverage for children

Love Inc.

Low income housing available

Mano a Mano

Medical clinics

OHDC

PCUN

Public Park

Schools

Toys for tots

Utility cost assistance programs

Visible Hispanic Community

**Umatilla**

Agape house

Capeco





**Umatilla**

Churches

City hall free garbage removal day

communication among workers

Community events

Department of Employment

DHS

Euvalcuree

Farmworker Union office

Flyers

Food bank

food stamp office

Head Start

Internet

La clinica de campesinos

Legal Aid of Oregon

Mexican stores

Migrant program

OHDC

Radio

School Programs

Umatilla Electric payment assistance program

Whatsapp

WIC

**Wasco**

CGCC free English classes

Food Stamps

Friends and family

GED instructor

Migrant Ed program

OHDC

OHDC vouchers



**Wasco**

Resource fairs

Safe Shelter Program

School

The Next Door

Whatsapp chat for school parents

WIC

WorkSource

**Washington**

Adelante Mujeres

Churches

Clinics

Cultural Center

Facebook

Flyers

Friends

Internet

laundry mat

Library

Newspapers

OHDC

Radio

Schools

Stores

TV



## Appendix D: Collaboration opportunities

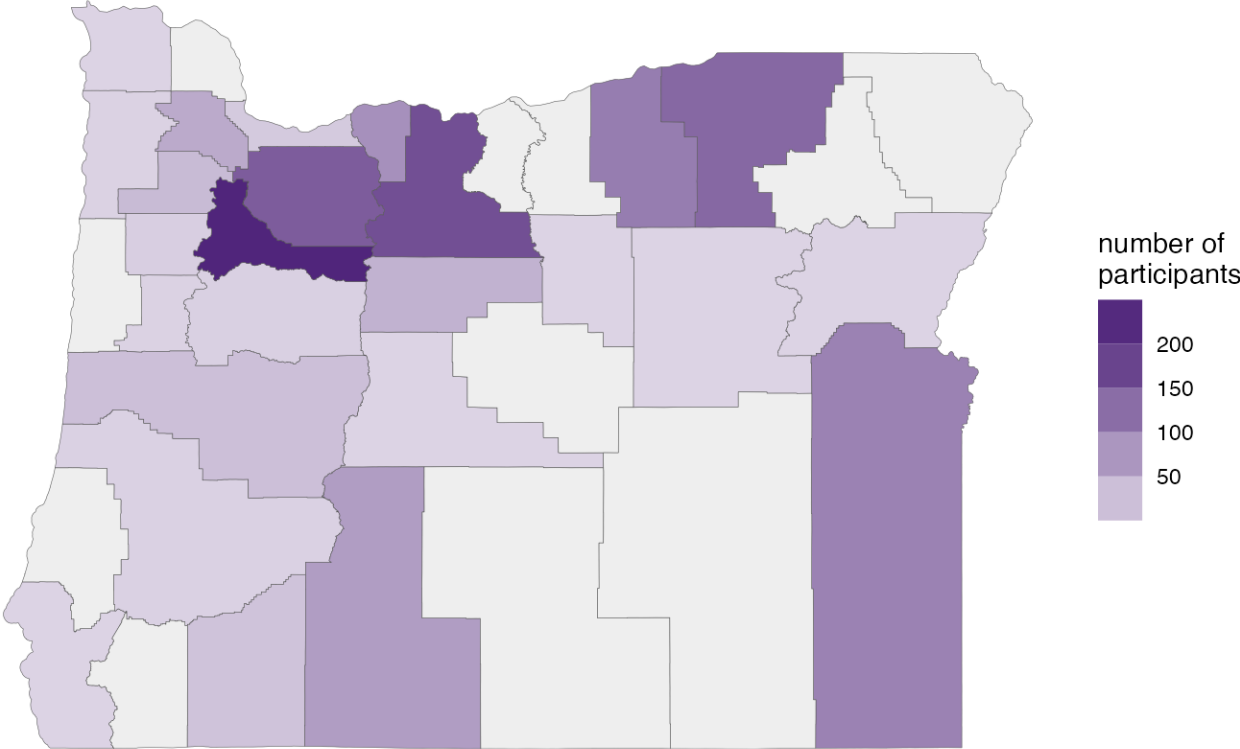
These ideas were shared by service providers who attended our Partner Focus Group and/or filled out the Partner Survey.

Partner(s)	Collaboration Idea
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)	Partner on pesticide safety and overall workplace health and safety trainings
AWARE Food Bank	Staff an equity focused resource table during Food Bank distribution events
Euvalcree	Partner to promote and distribute resources to FWs, and to provide technical skills trainings that tie to job opportunities for FWs and their youth
Red is the Road to Wellness, InterMountain Education Service District Migrant Ed Program, Klamath and Lake Community Action Services	Build a robust communication system so all organizations are aware of current resources and eligibility requirements: increase referrals, avoid service duplication
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD)	Strategize to build partnerships between public transportation providers, to provide better public transit and establish a pipeline for driver training and jobs
Woodburn School District Home School parent meetings, Farmworker Housing Development Corp, Legal Aid Services of Oregon	Increase OHDC outreach presentations with partners and their clients to share resources and services
Klamath Community College, Adult Basic Education	Share resources and services flyers more broadly
Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency	Provide supplemental cash assistance to Farmworkers in poverty who are not eligible for TANF
Legal Aid Services of Oregon	Partner to provide Farmworker leadership development
several	Facilitate focus groups with partners to strategize new ways to reach more families
Umatilla-Morrow Head Start	Participate in each others advisory committees to share resources and learn from each other
Klamath Family Head Start	Hold community partnership meetings

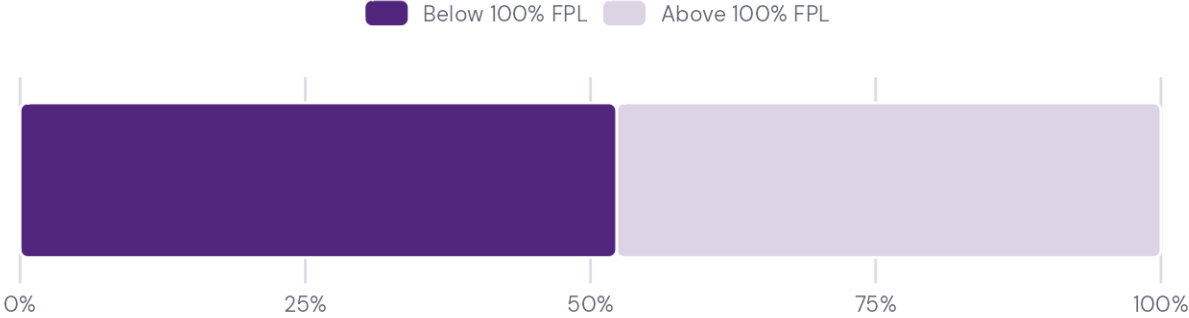


# Appendix E: Farmworker Survey Participant Demographics

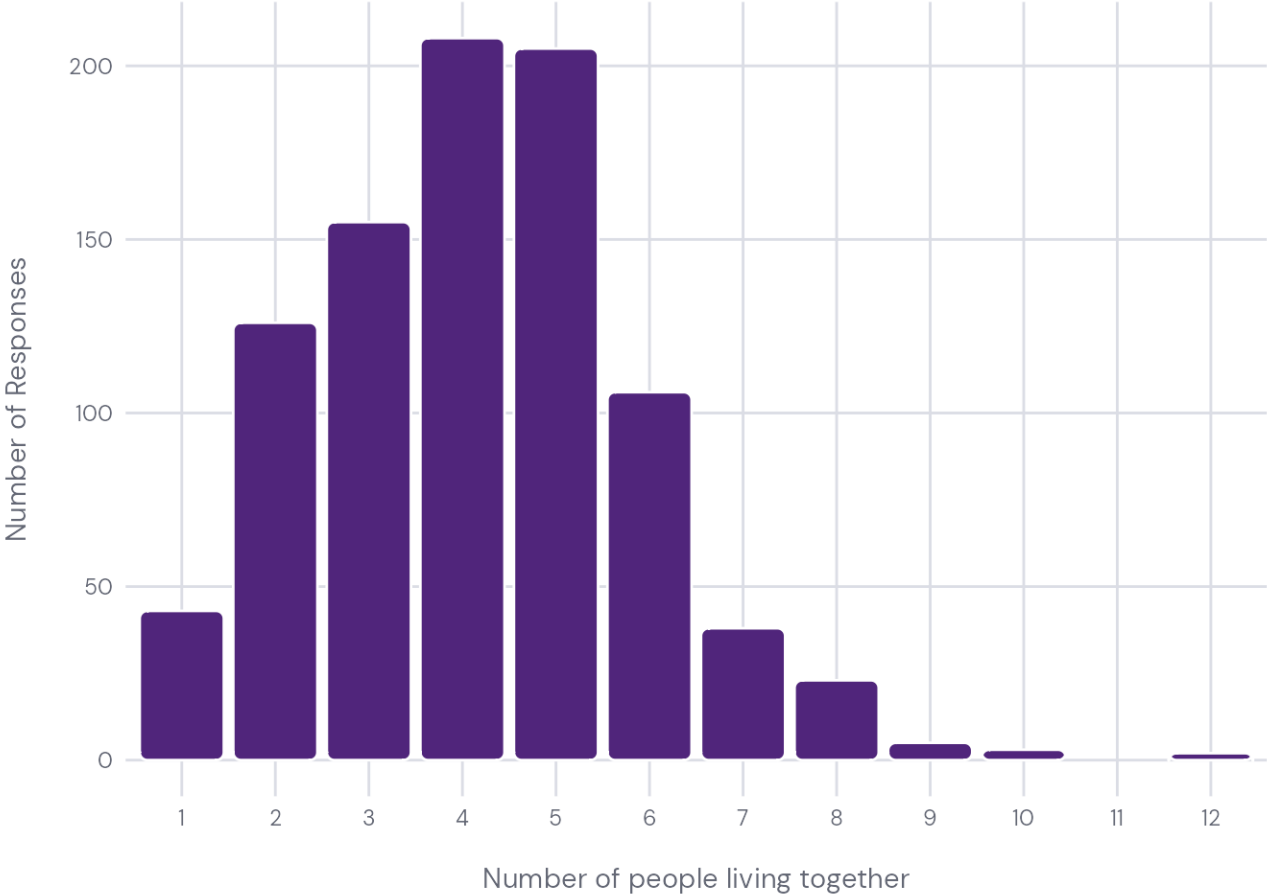
Number of surveys from each county



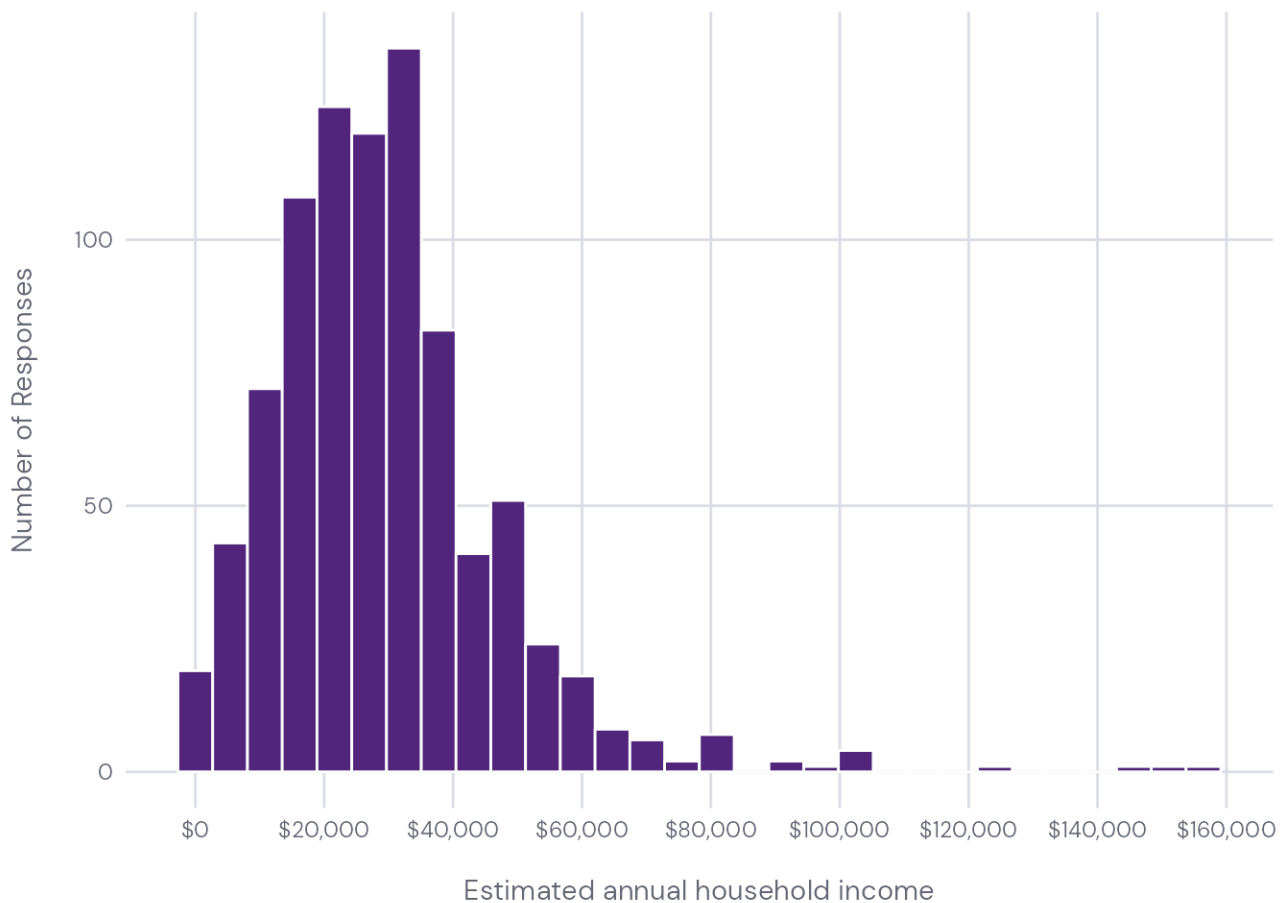
### Poverty proportions (percent of participants above and below Federal Poverty Levels)



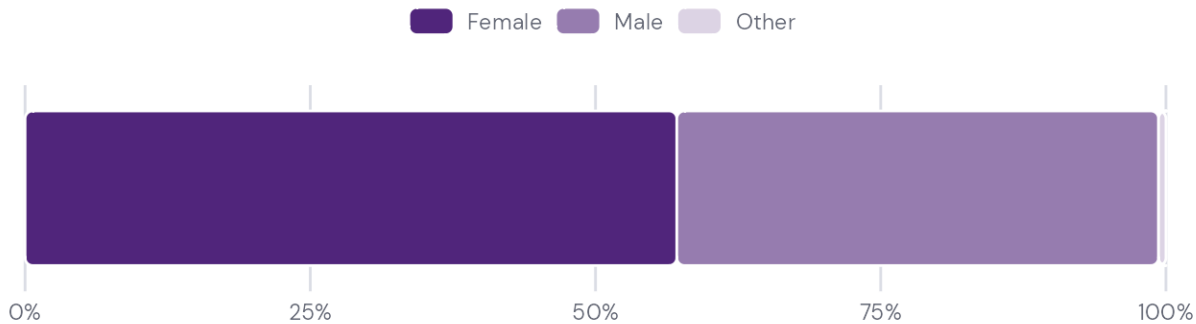
### Household Size



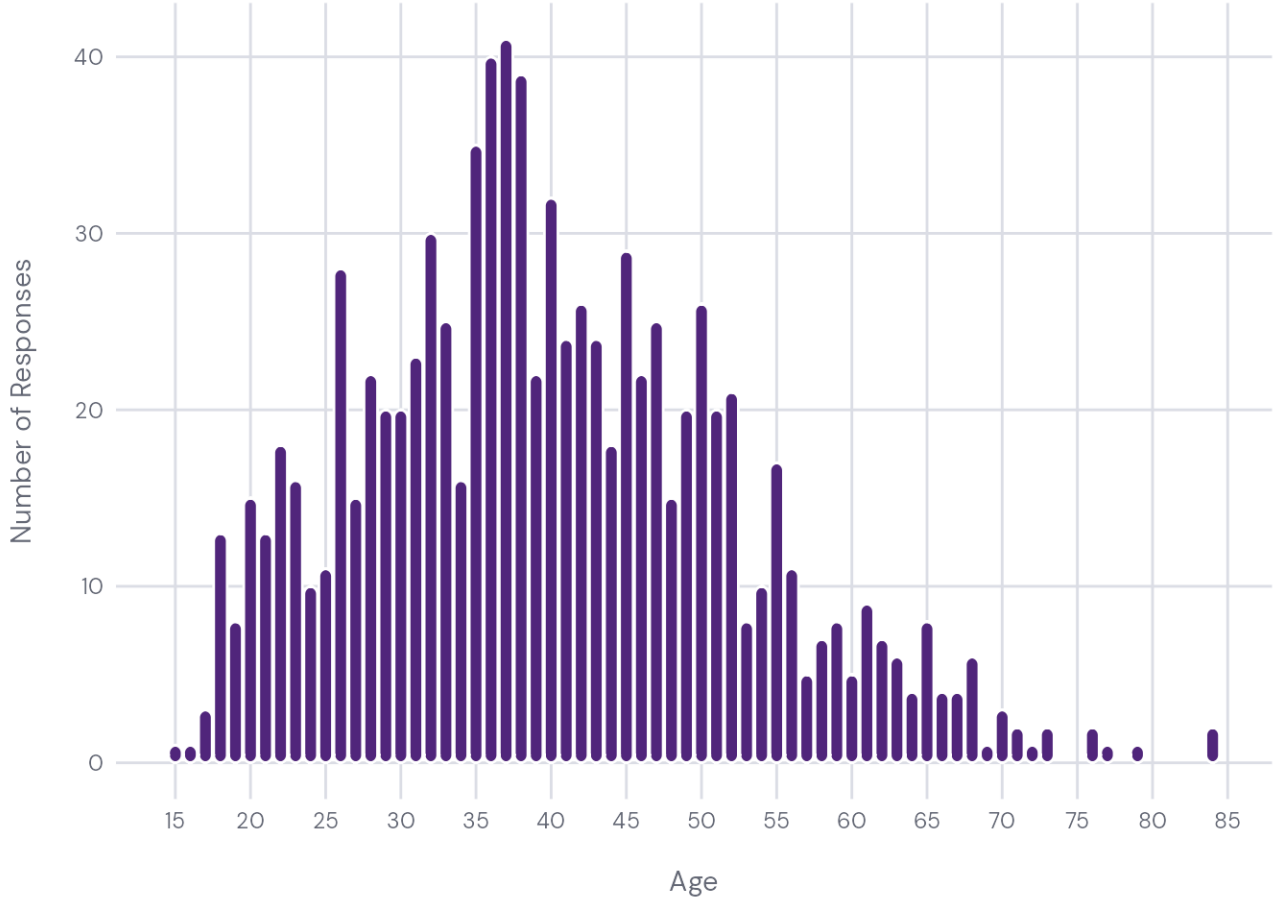
### Household Income



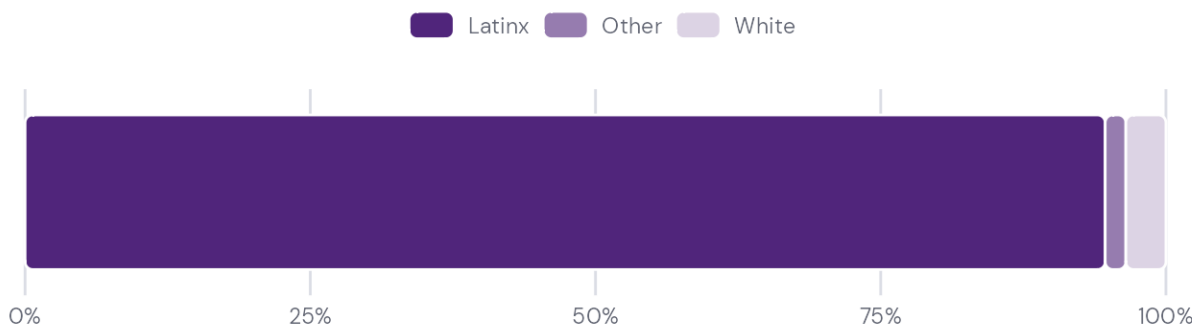
### Gender



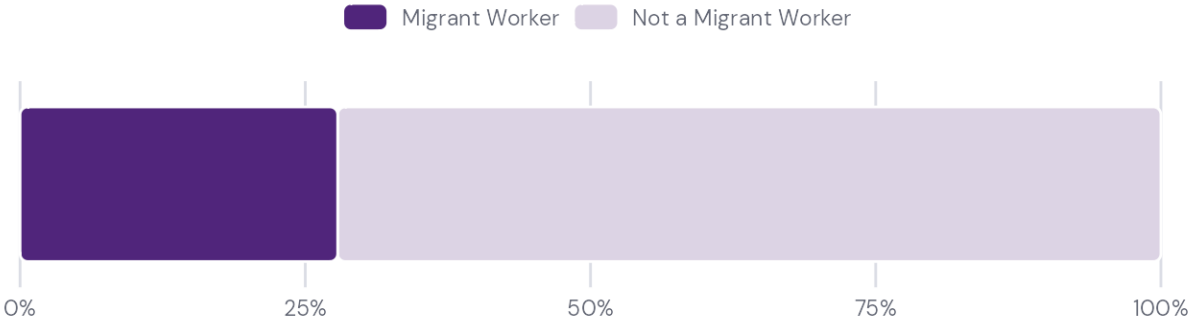
### Age



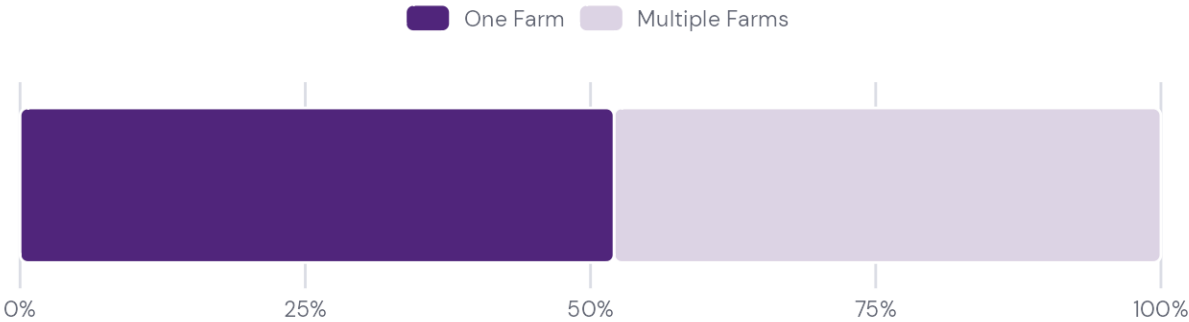
### Ethnicity



### Migrant or Non-Migrant status

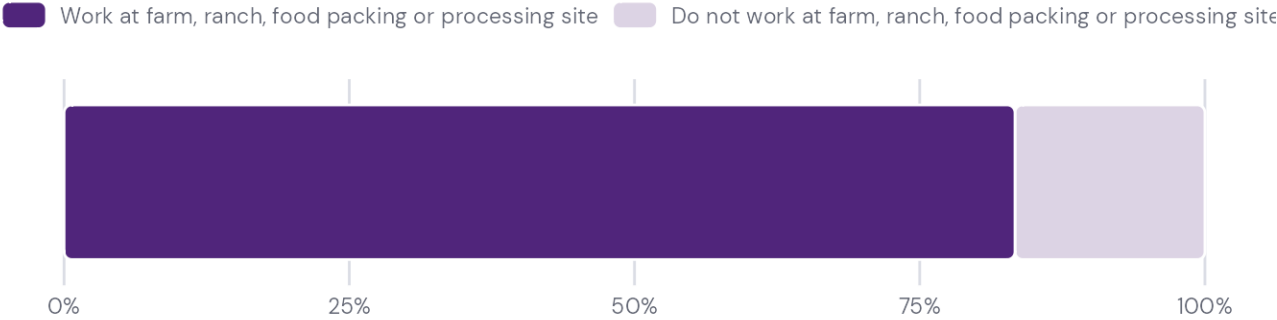


### Number of farms participants work at in a single year

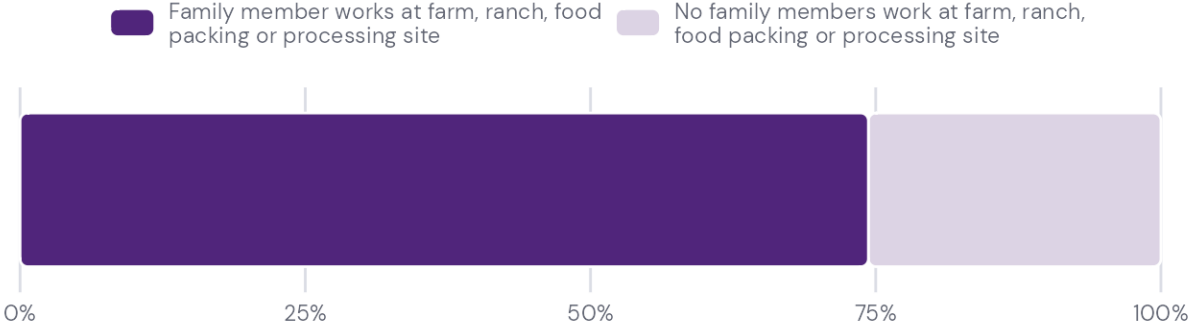




### Proportion of participants who are Farmworkers



### Proportion of participants with Farmworker family members



# Appendix F: Farmworker Survey Questions

## Oregon Human Development Corp. (OHDC) - Farmworker Needs Survey

MISSION: Promoting economic advancement and self-sufficiency of farmworkers and underserved communities.

OHDC wants to understand the strengths and needs of Farmworkers. **Your input** will help us improve the way we serve our community - to ensure people have what they need to support themselves and their families long term.

**This survey is anonymous - we will not ask for your name.**

1. Please enter the zip code where you live now: \_\_\_\_\_, or the name of your town: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you work at a farm or ranch, or food packing or processing site? .....  Yes  No

If so, how many different agricultural businesses do you usually work for each year? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you a migrant (do you move to different farm regions throughout the year)?.....  Yes  No

4. Does anyone else in your family work at a farm, ranch, or food packing or processing site?  Yes  No

**5. Where do you get information about resources, assistance or services? Mark all that apply:**

- Local Spanish radio station
- Facebook or Instagram
- Whatsapp groups
- at my job site
- Friends or Family
- from a School or Community College class
- from a Library
- Bulletin boards around town
- online (internet)
- from a Church
- from the Food Bank
- 2-1-1
- Social service agencies like OHDC
- Most of the time I **do not know** where to find resources that could help me or my family
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Which of these best describes your housing today? Mark all that apply:**

- I live in farmworker housing
- I share housing with extended family or friends
- I am worried I will lose my housing
- I am staying in a shelter, car, tent or on the street
- I rent a home, apartment or trailer
- I own a home or trailer
- Other living arrangement (hotel, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

**7. If housing is a problem for you or for people you know, mark all the reasons it's a problem:**

- Cost of rent or house payment
- Cost of utilities
- Not enough housing available
- Housing is too crowded
- I can't qualify for a loan
- Housing is unsafe or unhealthy
- Repairs (roof, plumbing, etc.) needed
- Not enough shelter space (domestic violence shelters, warming or homeless shelters)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Do you have access to the internet at home?**  Yes  No

How often does poor internet access make it hard to accomplish things you need to do?  
 Often  Sometimes  Never

10. Number of people in your household (adults & children sharing income & expenses): \_\_\_\_\_

11. On average, what is the total **annual income** for your household? Your best estimate is fine. Include all household members' income from last year. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did anyone in your household lose wages because of the COVID-19 pandemic?  Yes  No



**13. If employment is a problem for you or for people you know, mark all the reasons it's a problem:**

- Lack of skills or education needed
- Lack of affordable child care during work hours
- Good paying jobs with benefits are hard to find
- Lack of legal documents (green card, etc)
- Wages are too low to cover monthly expenses
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

**14. During the last year, how often have you or people you live with worried that you would run out of food before you could get more?**

- Often       -Sometimes       -Never

**15. If transportation is a problem for you or for people you know, mark all the reasons it's a problem:**

- Cost of buying and maintaining a car
- Limited public transportation
- Cost of gasoline
- Insurance rates too high
- Unable to get a driver's license
- Cost of car seats for kids
- transportation schedules are not in my language
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>16. Rank the following needs by marking one box for each item</b>	<b>I need a lot of help with this</b>	<b>I could use some help with this</b>	<b>I do not need any help with this</b>
Access to healthcare or dentists			
Affordable childcare			
Affordable housing			
Counseling to manage stress, suicide prevention, depression or addiction, for you or your family members			
Education support for children			
Finding a job that pays well			
Finding information when I need it most (for things like COVID relief funds, bilingual attorneys, etc.)			
Getting enough healthy food			
Internet access			
Job training			
Learning to speak and read English			
Legal assistance			
Safety from domestic violence			
Translation services			
Transportation			
Utility costs			

**17. Please mark the gender you most identify with:**

- Female       Male       Transgender  
 Gender non-conforming       Prefer not to answer       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Please select the races or ethnicities you most identify with:**

- African American/Black       Asian/Asian American       Hispanic/Latino/LatinX  
 Native American/American Indian       White       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**19. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_**

Thank you! If there are other problems in your community, or you have an idea about how OHDC can help, please explain here:



## Appendix G: County Farmworker Profiles

Very little comprehensive data exists for Farmworkers and their dependents, and most of what is available is not at the county level. As a result, Latinx data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey and other sources are presented in these profiles, since more than 90% of Farmworkers in Oregon are thought to be Latinx. This is problematic since **only 16% of Oregon Latinx are Farmworkers** – so the overall picture of poverty for Latinx (who hold a wide variety of jobs that are not subject to the same low wages, seasonality and lack of benefits) will not truly represent Farmworker poverty. In addition, many Farmworkers are Indigenous to Mesoamerica – mostly originating from communities in Mexico or Guatemala. These Farmworkers will have different demographic characteristics and needs than either Latinx or other non-Indigenous Farmworkers, especially since their native languages are neither Spanish nor English. But very little is known about this population, and while they are often recorded as Latinx, it's not clear to what extent their numbers are represented by Latinx data.

Data sources used in these profiles are described in Appendix A: Methodology.

To help orient readers, plots and summary numbers which present state-level data are marked with an asterisk (\*) at the end of the title. We have also applied the following color scheme to plots and summary numbers throughout the County Farmworker Profiles appendix:

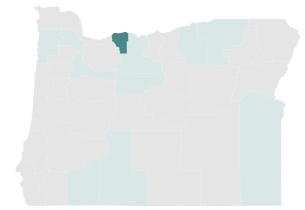
**Farms and Farmworker  
population data**

**Latinx  
population data**

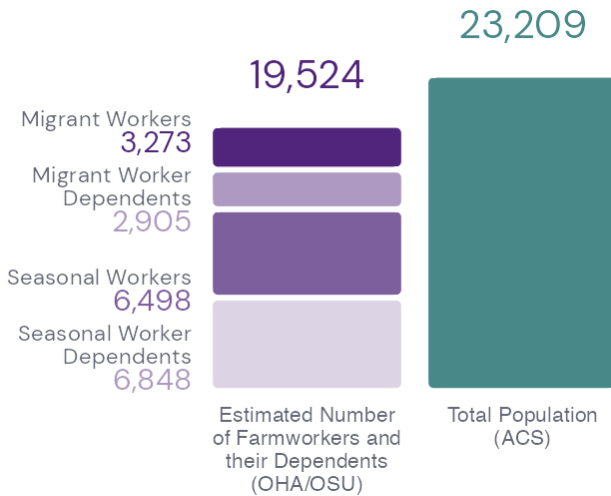
**County-wide  
population data**



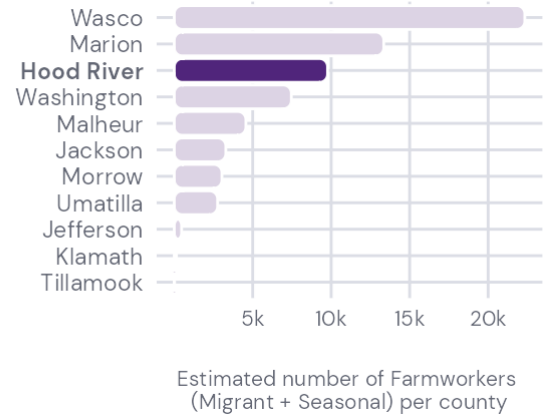
# Demographics



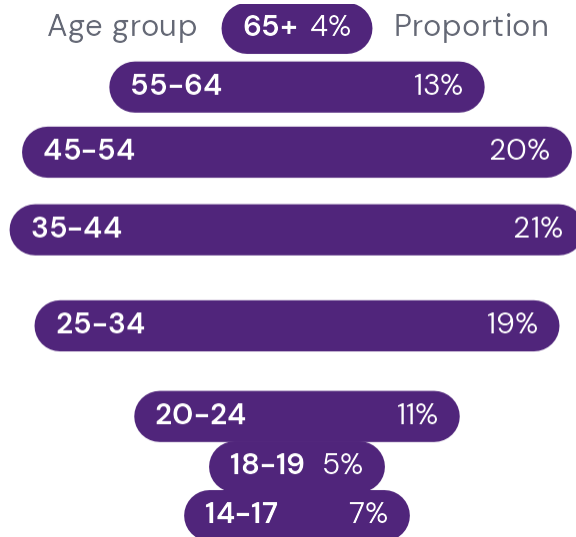
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



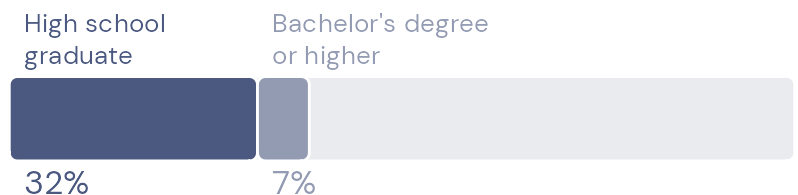
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



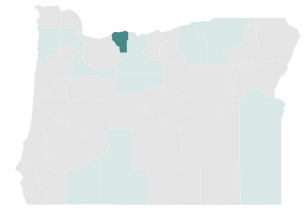
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



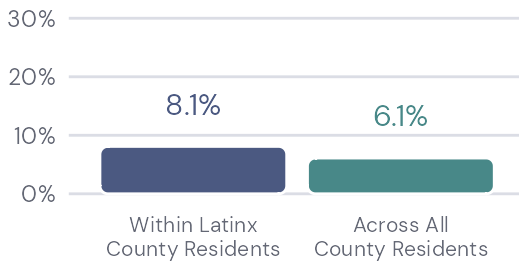
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$72,739**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

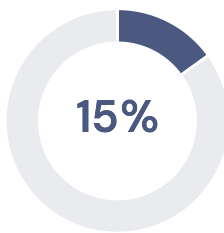


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

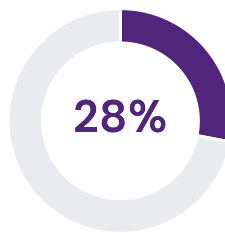


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

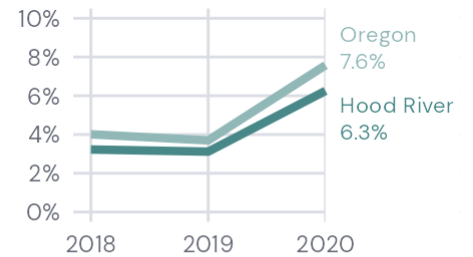
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



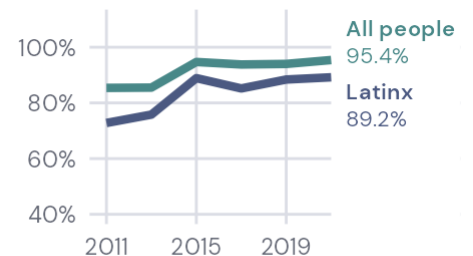
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.78**

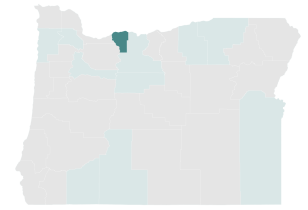
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$996k**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



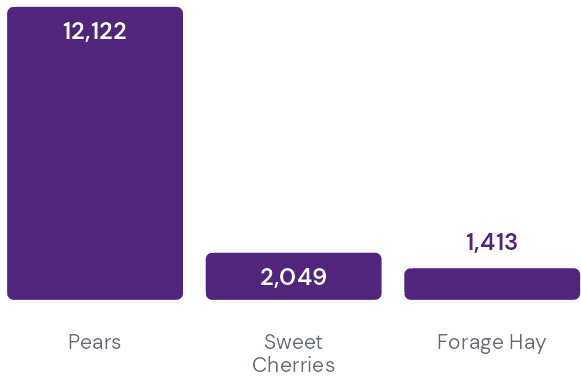
NUMBER OF FARMS

503

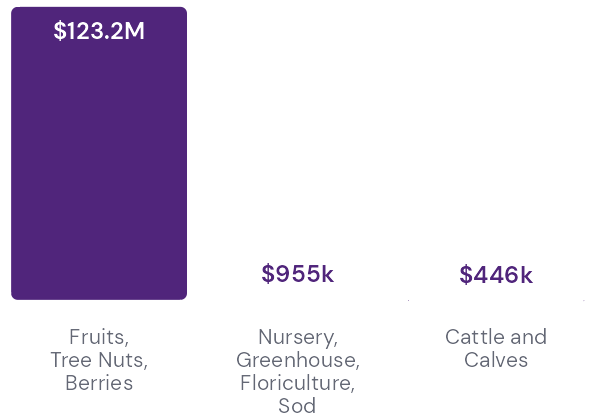
FARMLAND ACRES

24,827

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS

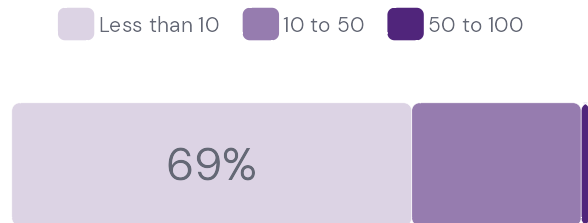


TOP THREE CROP SALES



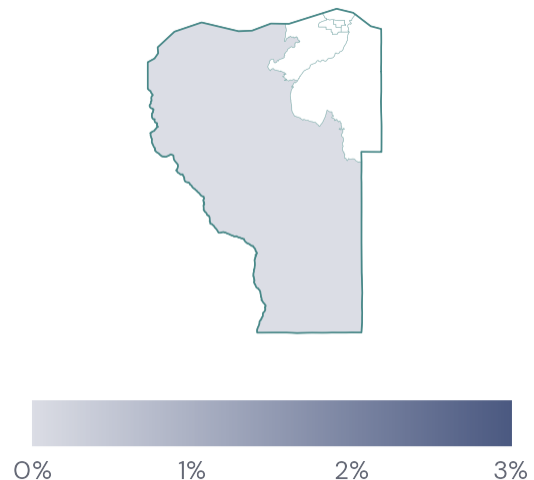
## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

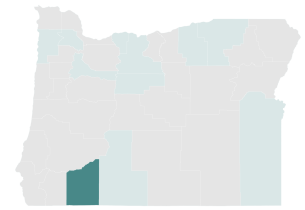


## FOOD DESERTS

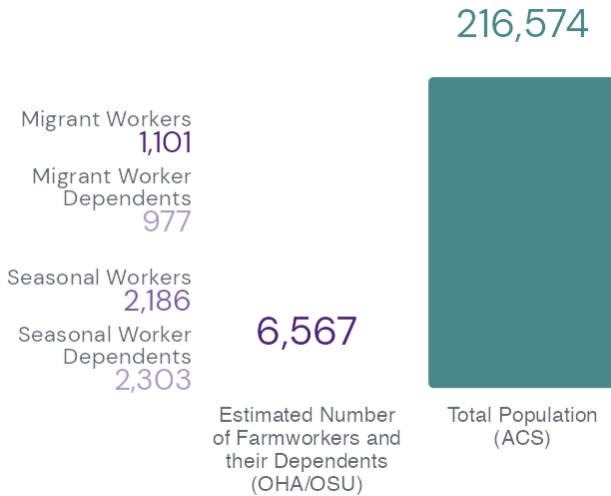
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Hood River County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



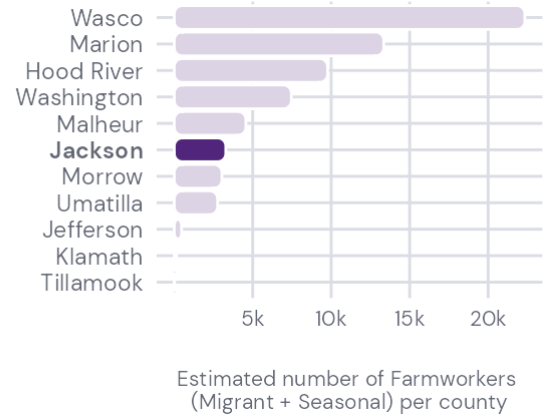
# Demographics



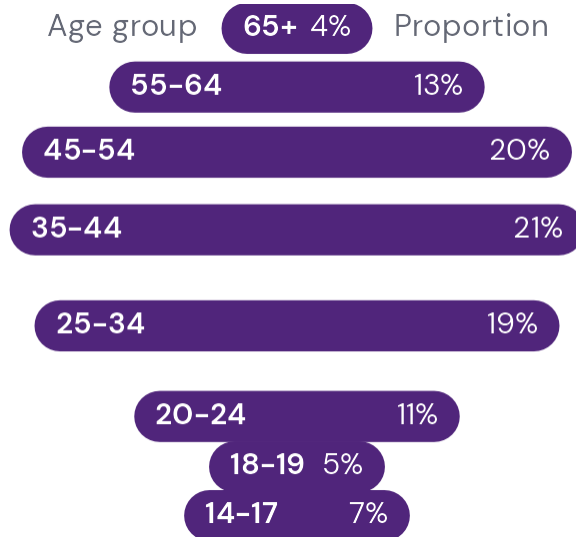
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



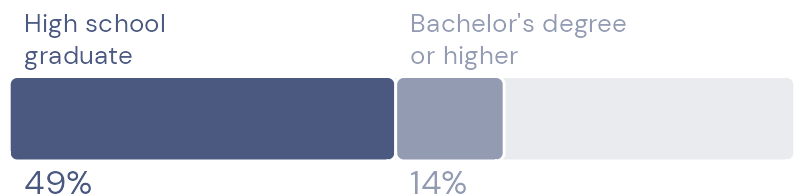
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

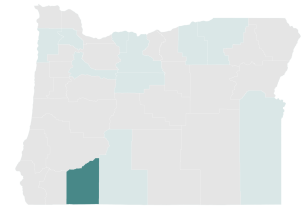
**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION





# Poverty



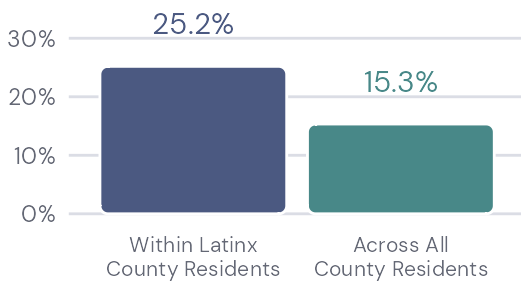
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$66,258**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

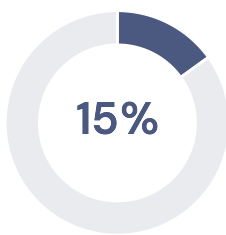


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

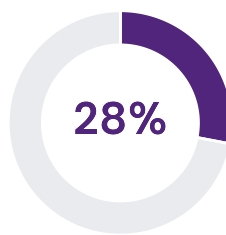


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

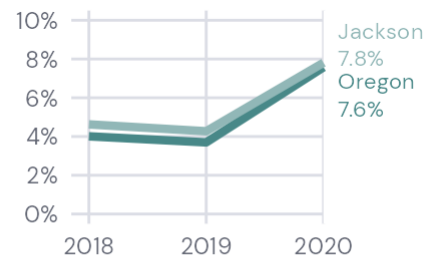
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



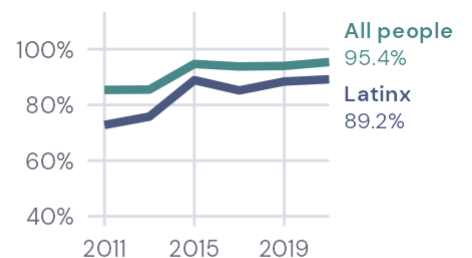
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.26**

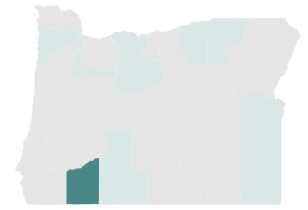
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$15.4M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



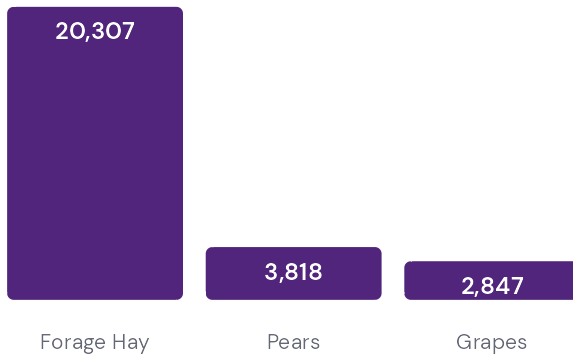
NUMBER OF FARMS

1,520

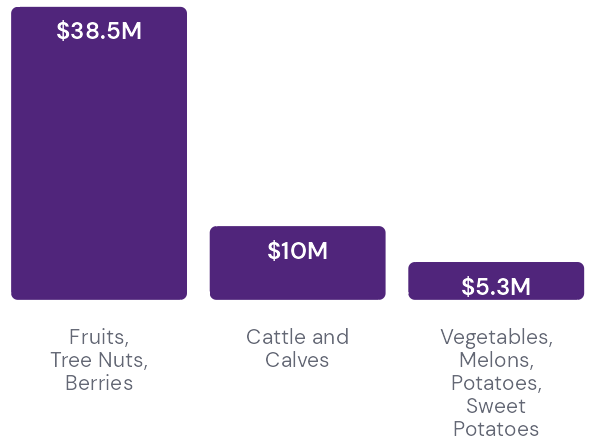
FARMLAND ACRES

122,403

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS

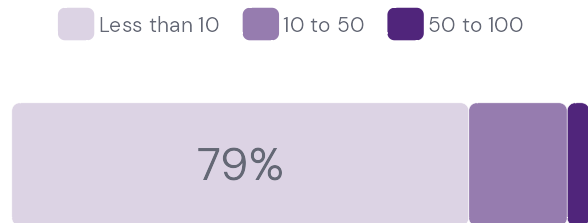


TOP THREE CROP SALES



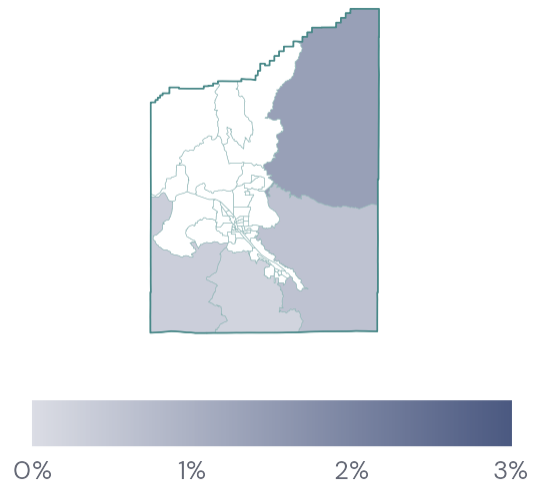
## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

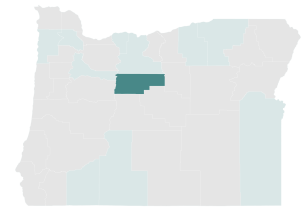


## FOOD DESERTS

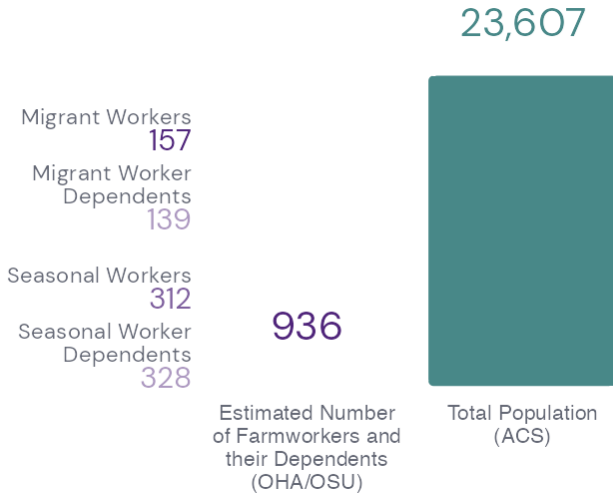
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Jackson County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



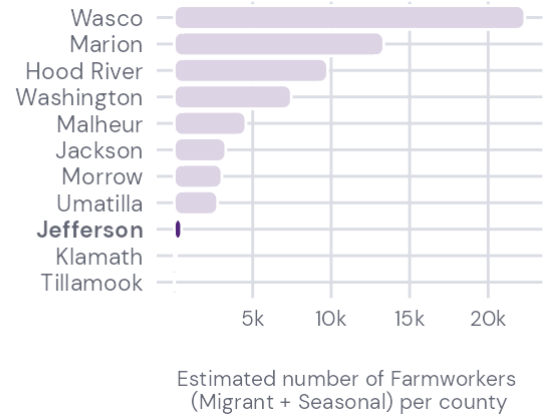
# Demographics



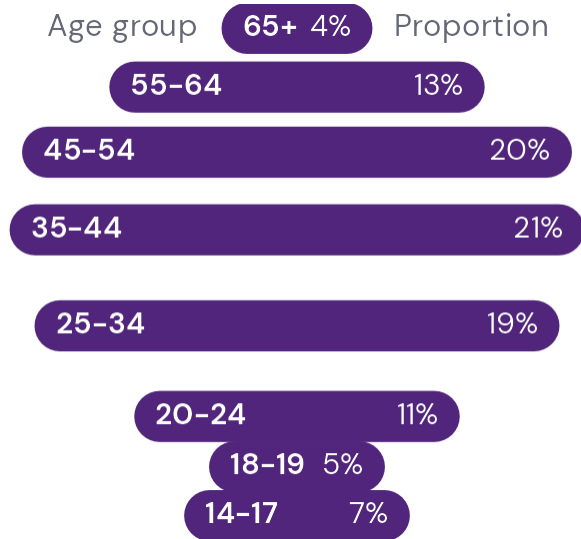
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



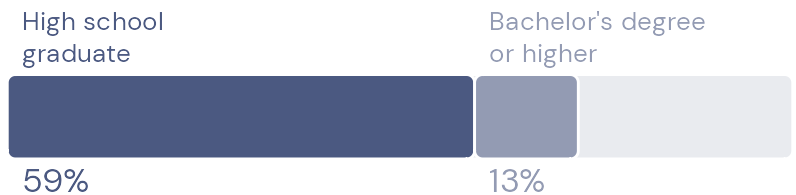
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



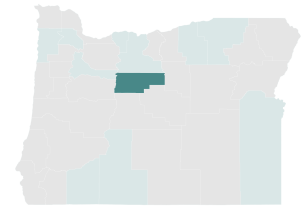
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



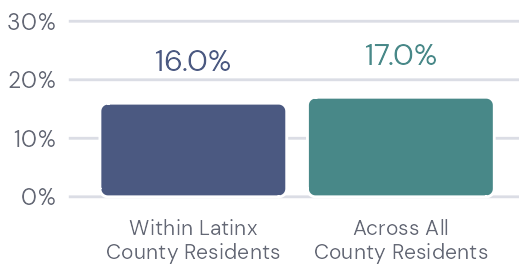
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$59,850**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

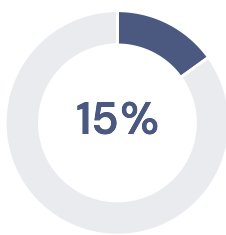


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

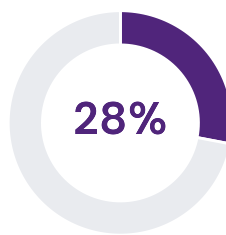


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

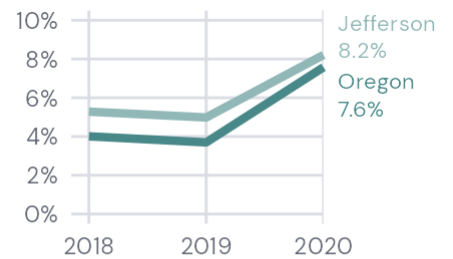
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



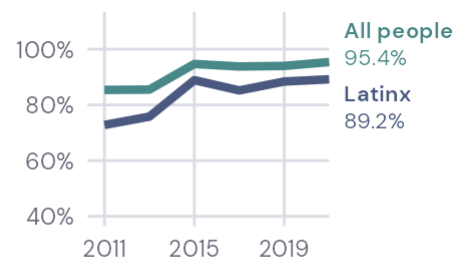
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.76**

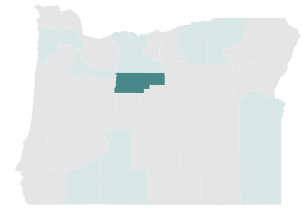
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$2.1M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



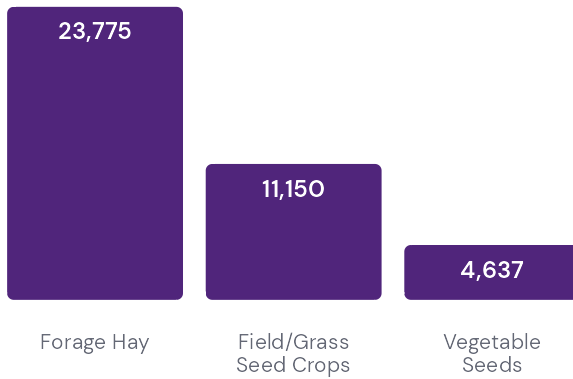
NUMBER OF FARMS

273

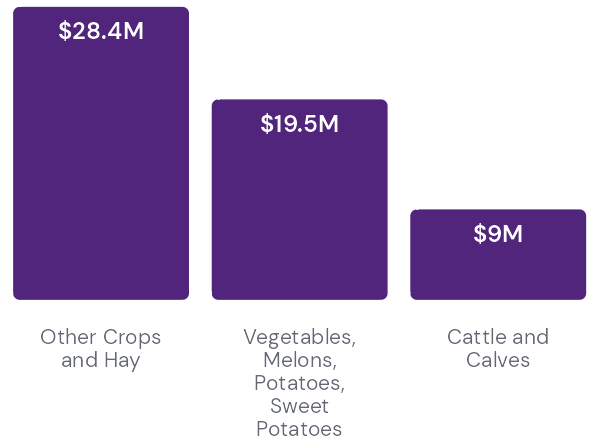
FARMLAND ACRES

155,349

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



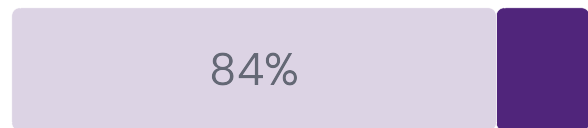
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

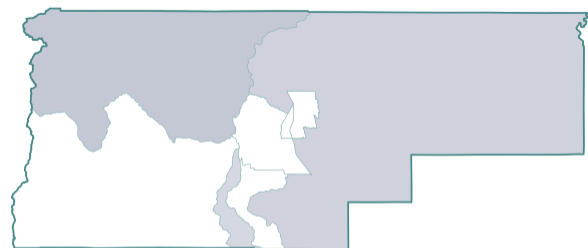
Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10 10 to 50

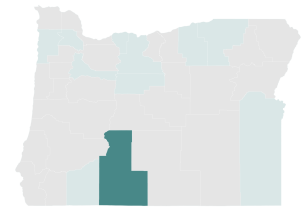


## FOOD DESERTS

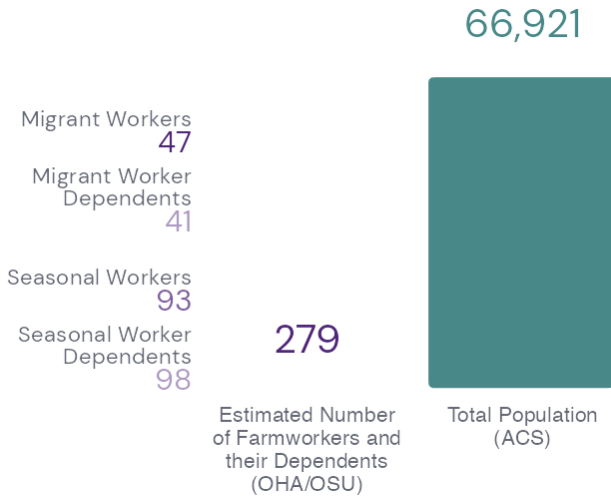
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Jefferson County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



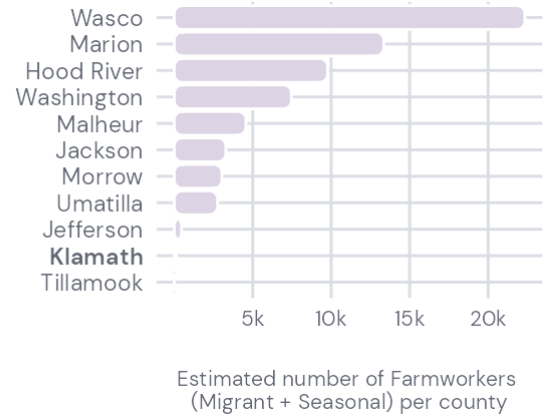
# Demographics



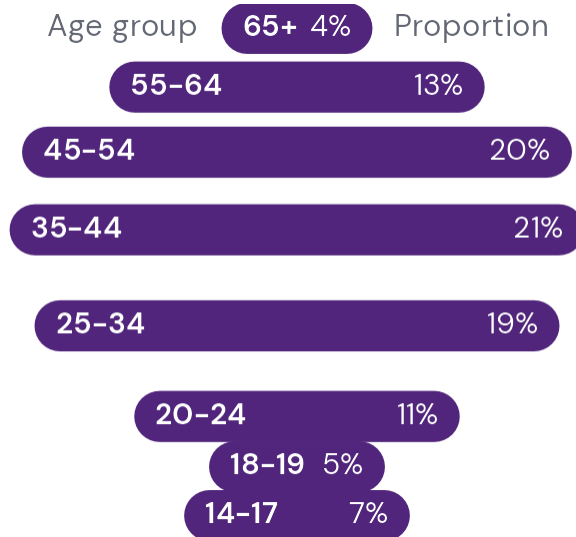
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



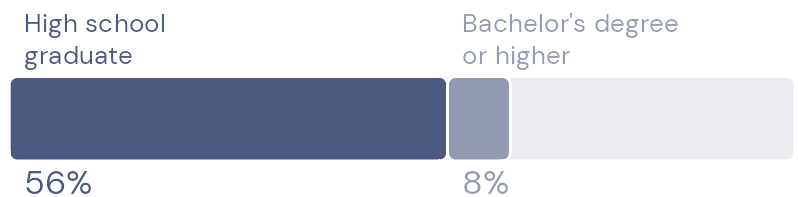
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



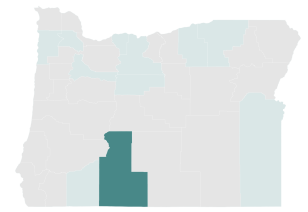
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



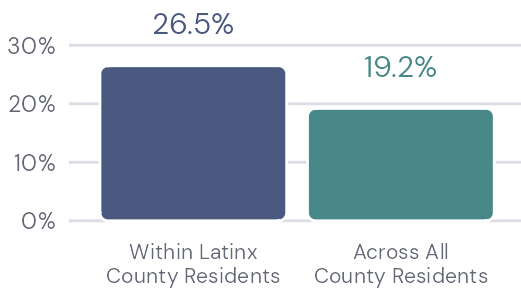
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$56,687**

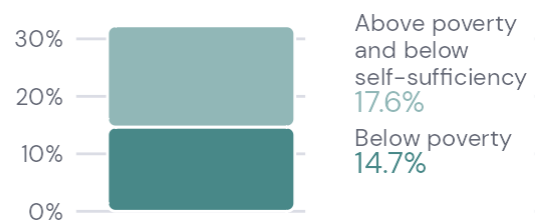
AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

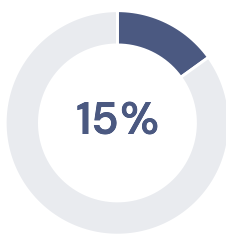


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

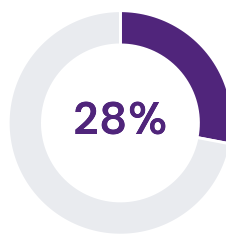


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

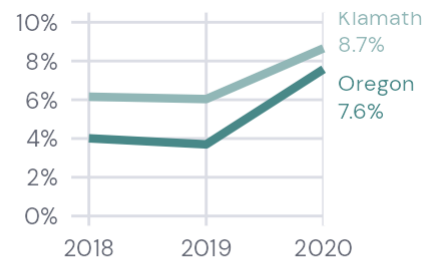
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



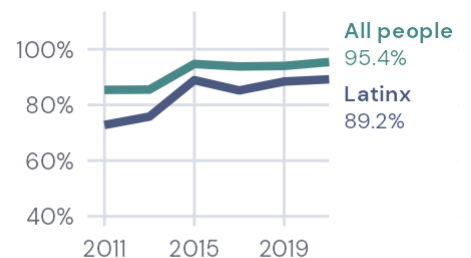
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.33**

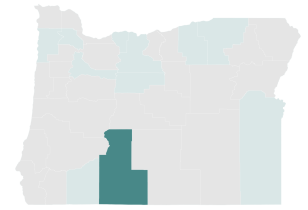
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$5.9M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



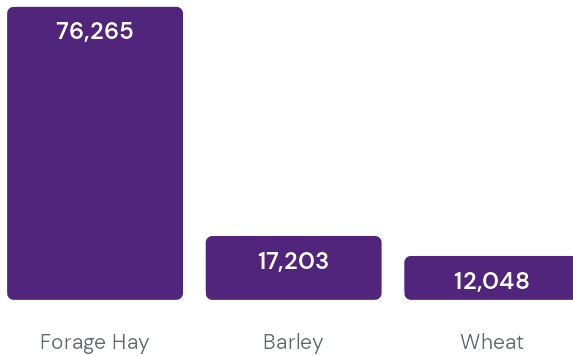
NUMBER OF FARMS

681

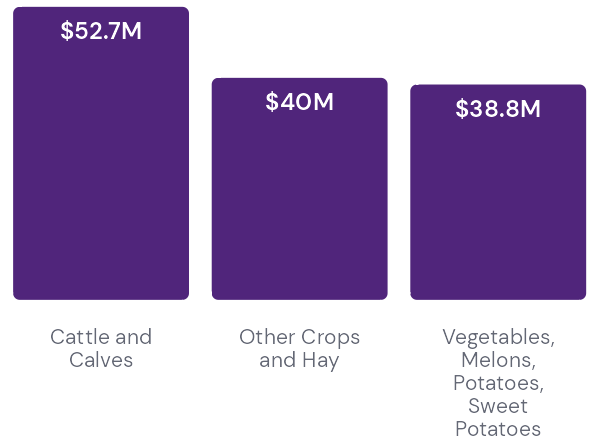
FARMLAND ACRES

380,898

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



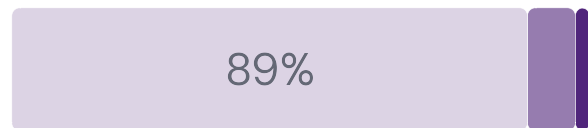
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

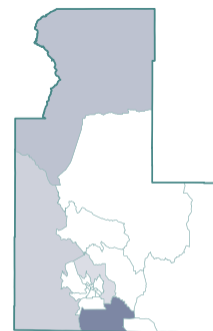
Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10 10 to 50 50 to 100



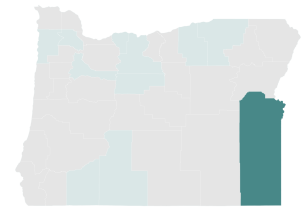
## FOOD DESERTS

The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Klamath County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.

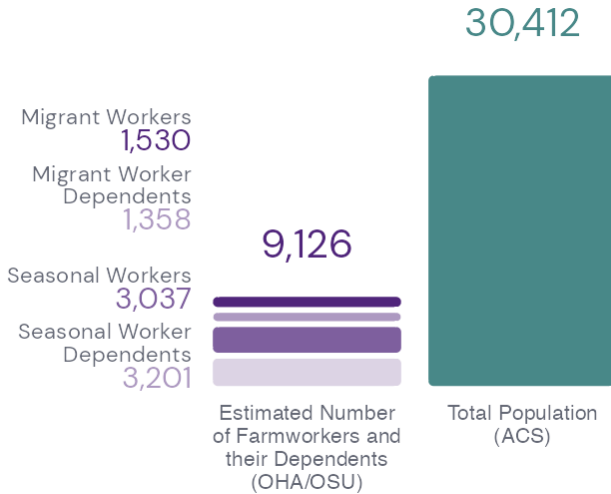




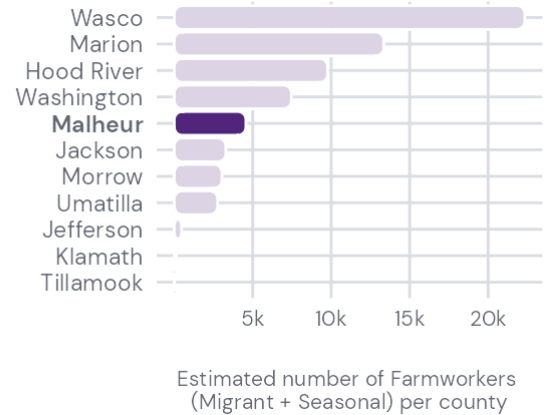
# Demographics



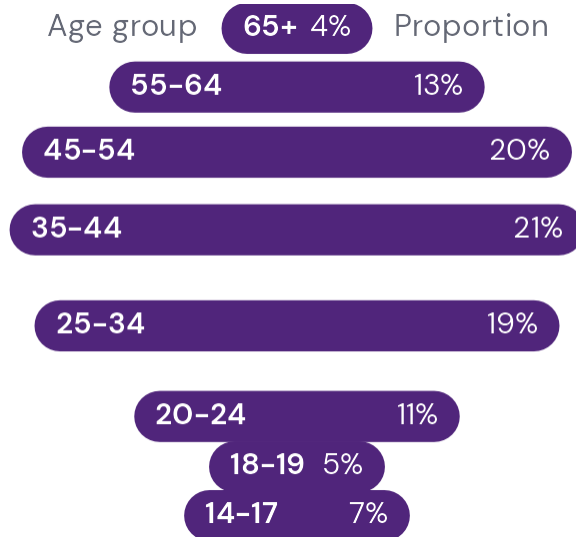
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



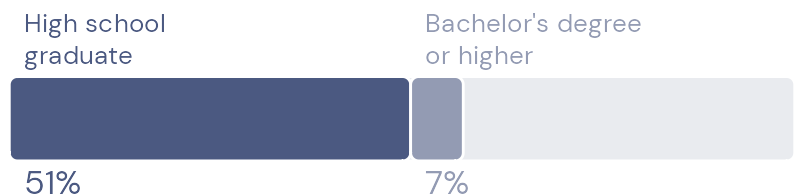
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



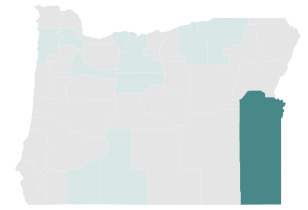
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



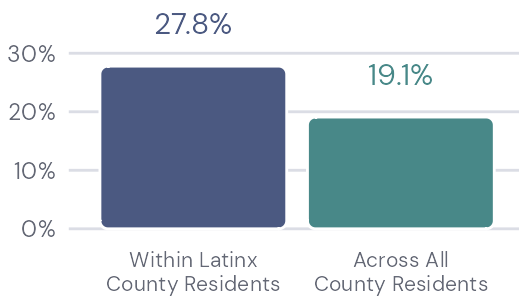
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$50,249**

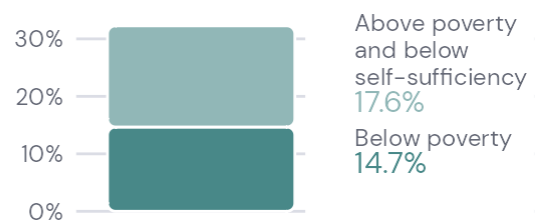
AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

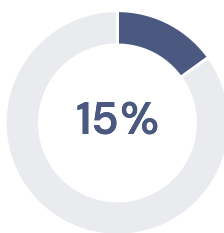


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

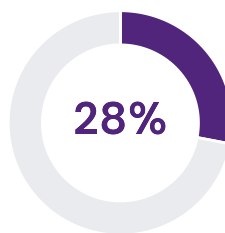


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

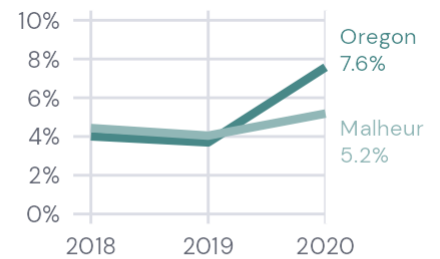
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



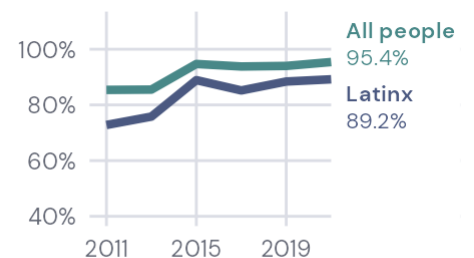
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$2.69**

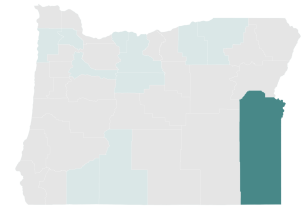
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$1.9M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



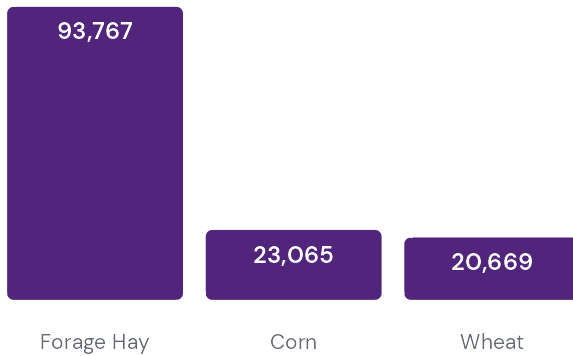
NUMBER OF FARMS

813

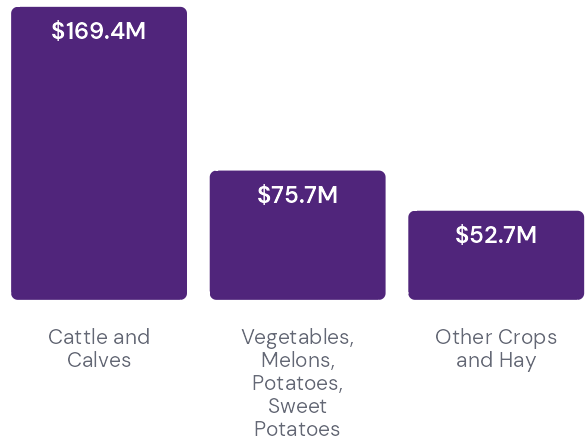
FARMLAND ACRES

887,235

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



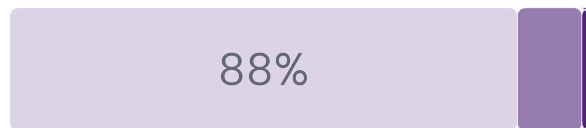
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10    10 to 50    50 to 100

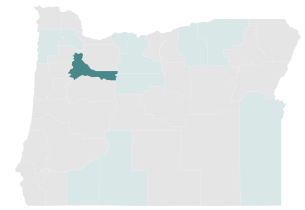


## FOOD DESERTS

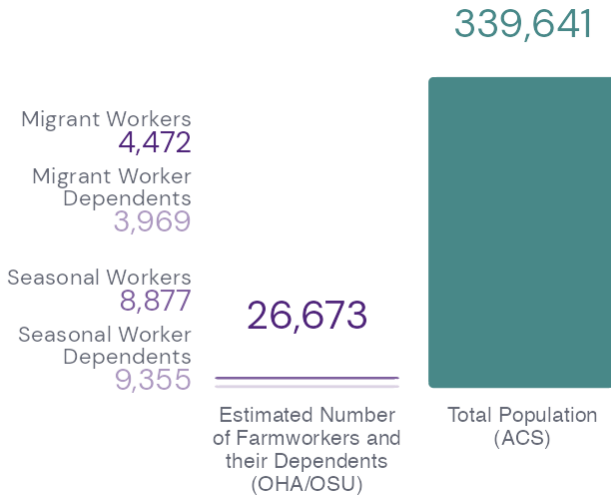
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Malheur County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



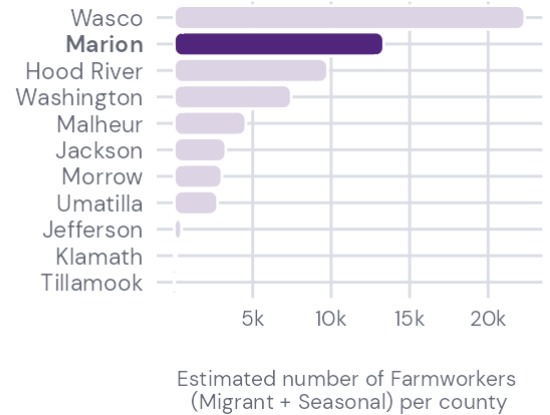
# Demographics



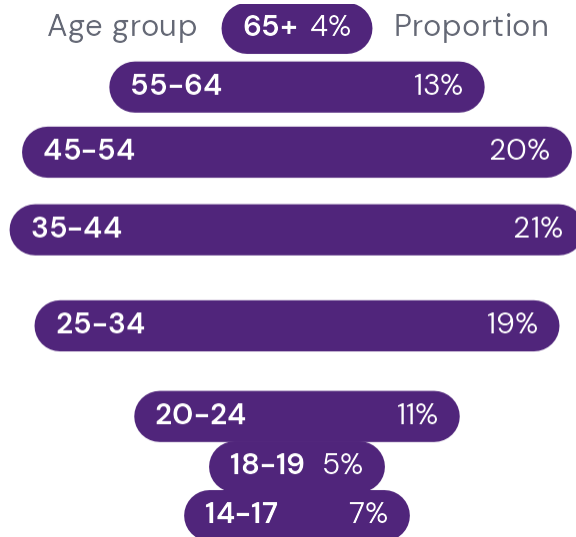
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



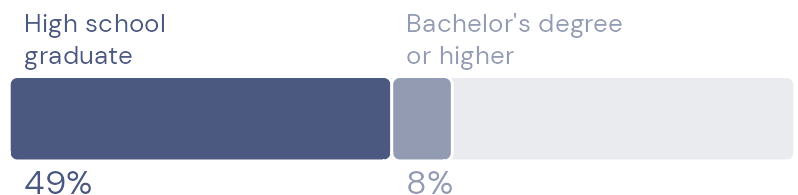
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



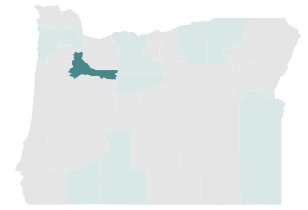
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



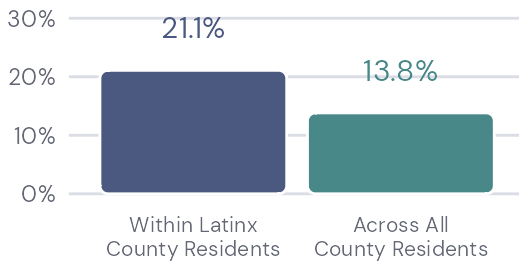
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$61,282**

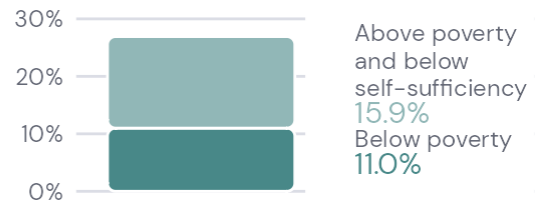
AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

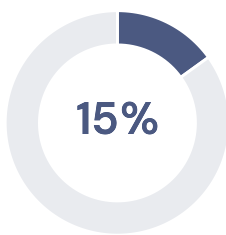


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

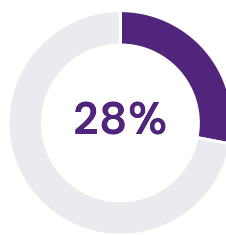


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

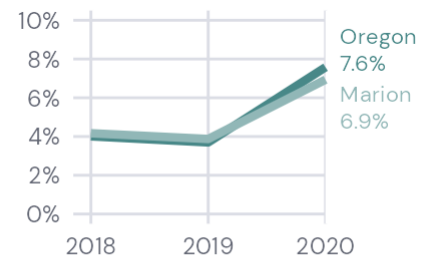
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



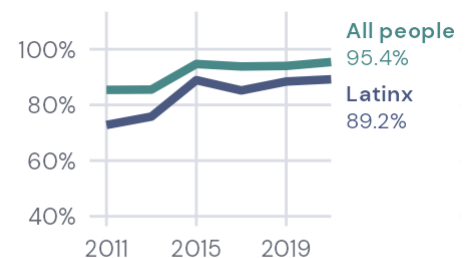
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.10**

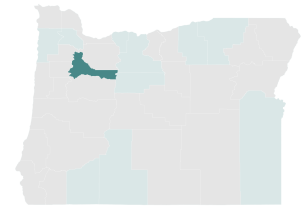
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$20.1M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



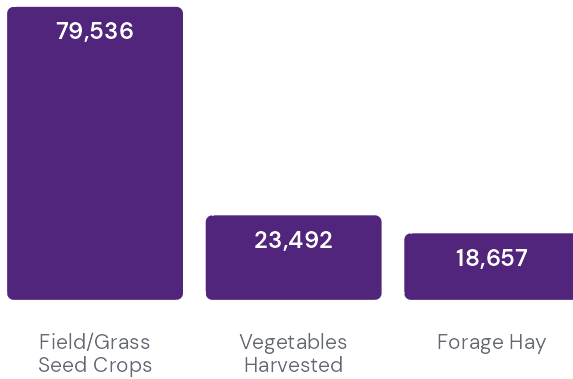
NUMBER OF FARMS

1,120

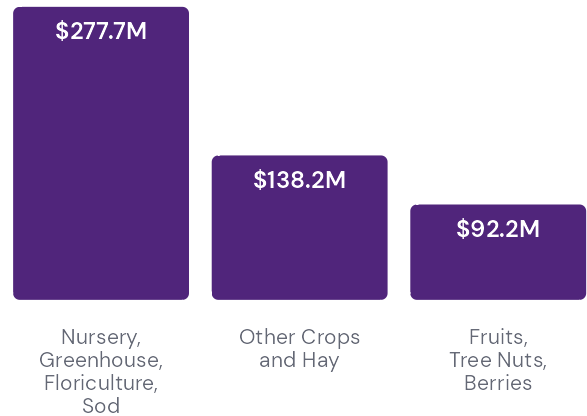
FARMLAND ACRES

217,207

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS

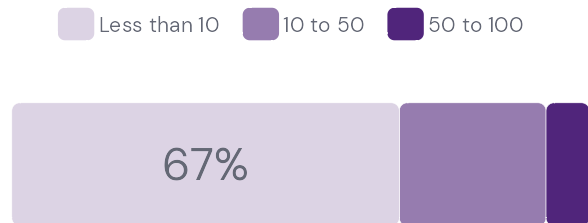


TOP THREE CROP SALES



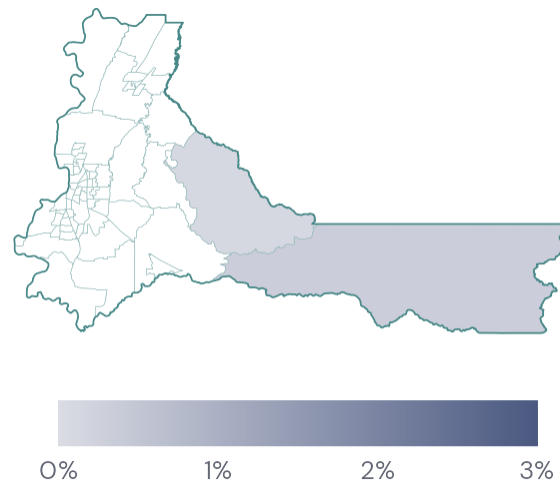
## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

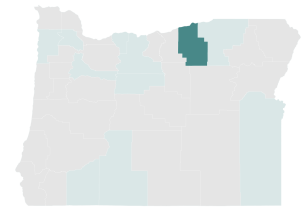


## FOOD DESERTS

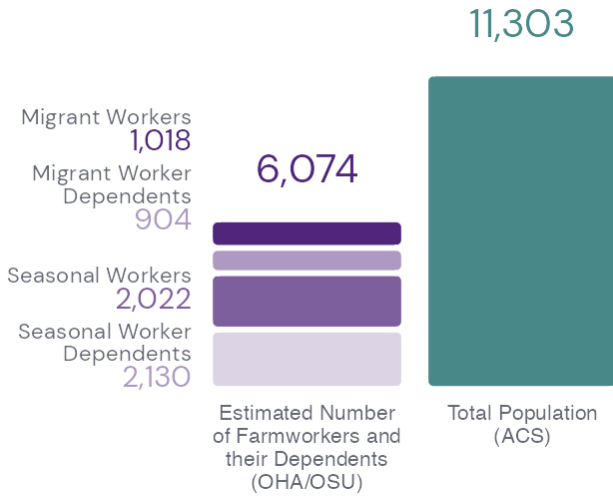
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Marion County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



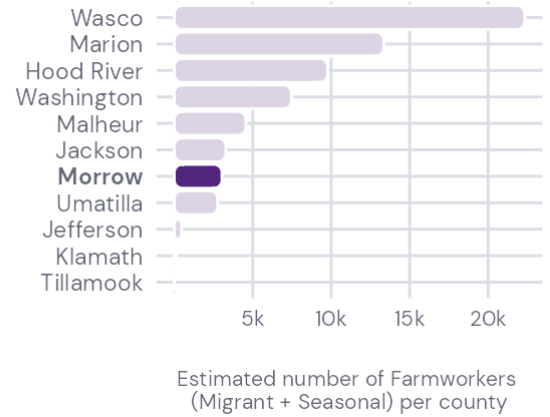
# Demographics



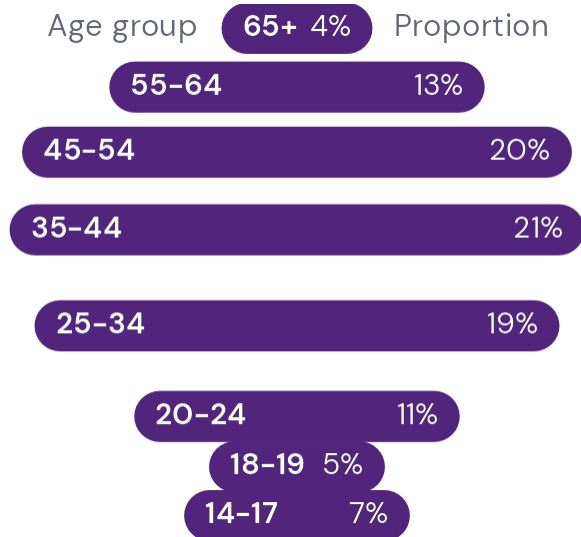
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



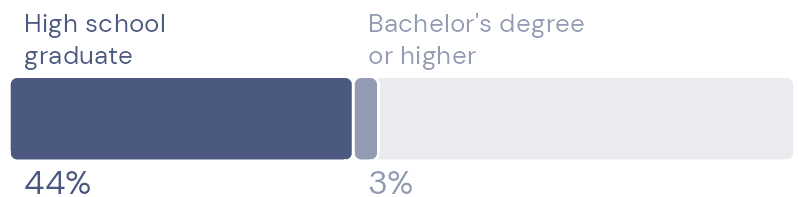
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



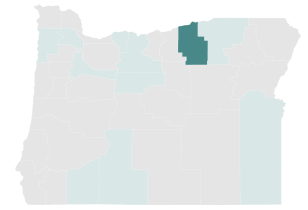
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



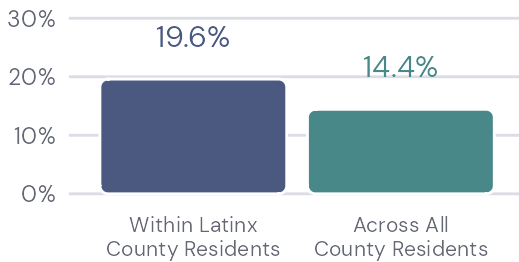
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$56,792**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

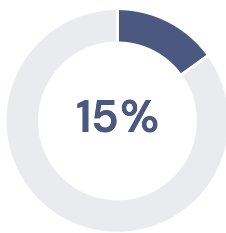


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

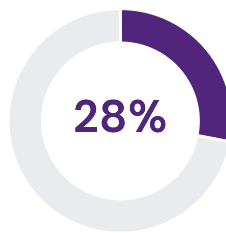


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

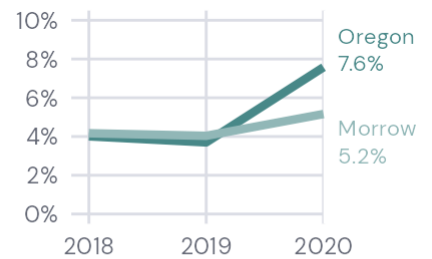
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



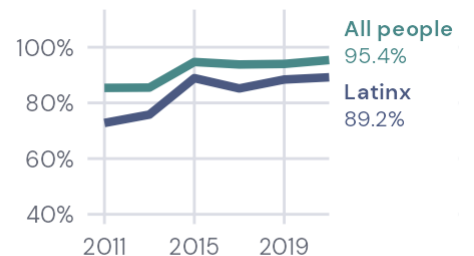
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.09**

MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

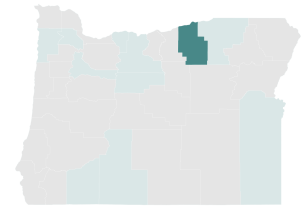
**\$612k**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*





# Infrastructure



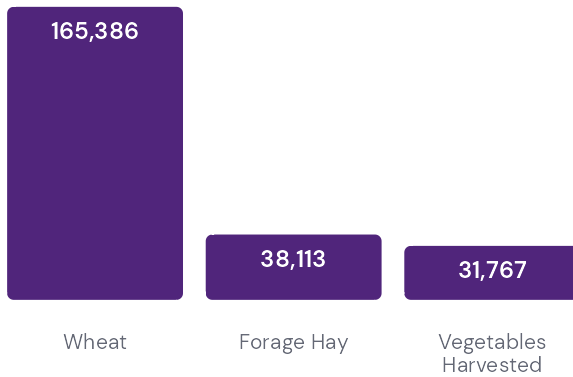
NUMBER OF FARMS

190

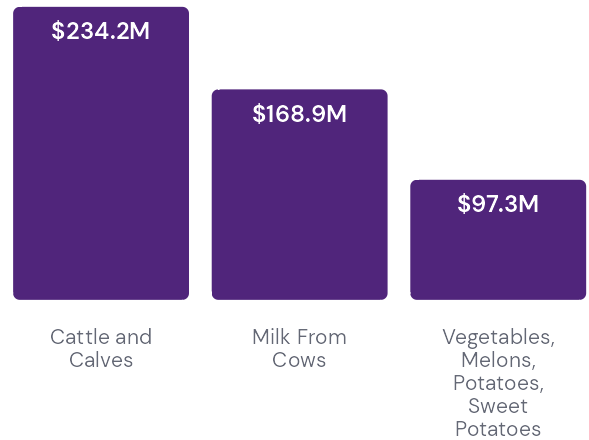
FARMLAND ACRES

629,570

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS

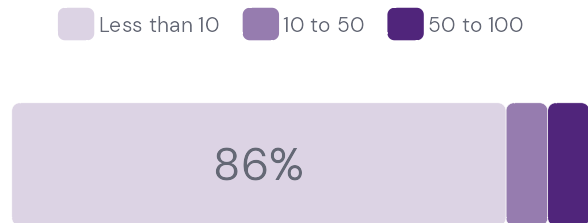


TOP THREE CROP SALES



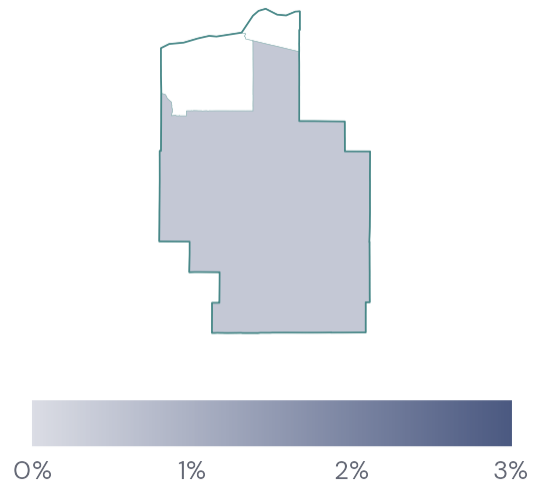
## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

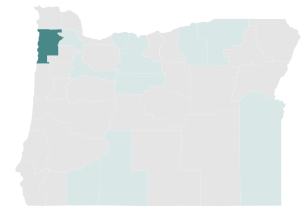


## FOOD DESERTS

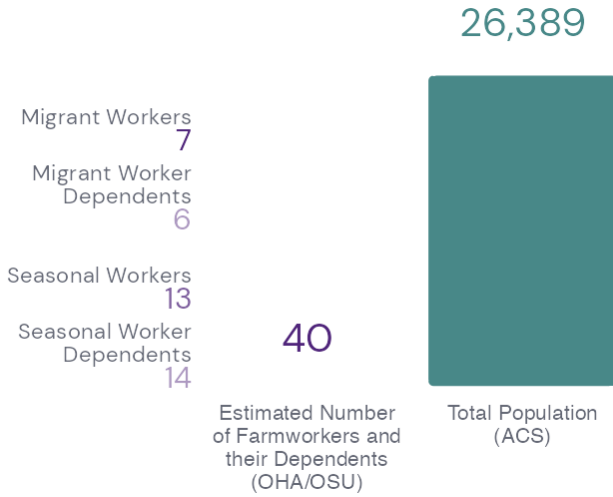
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Morrow County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



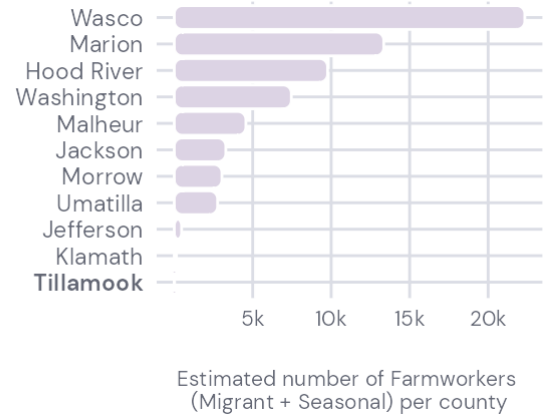
# Demographics



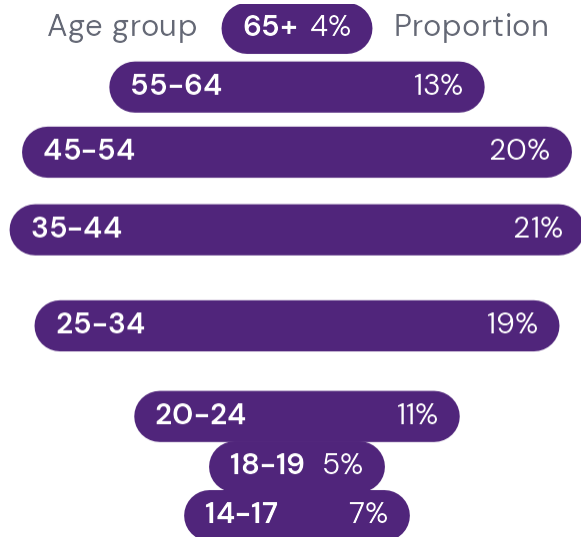
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



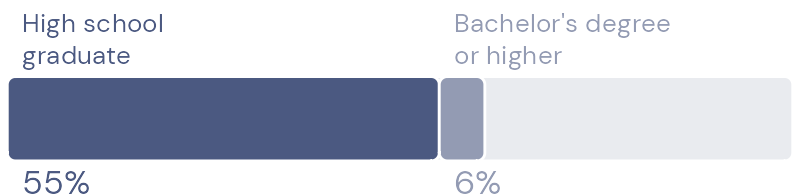
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



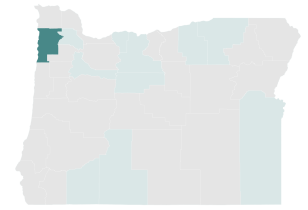
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



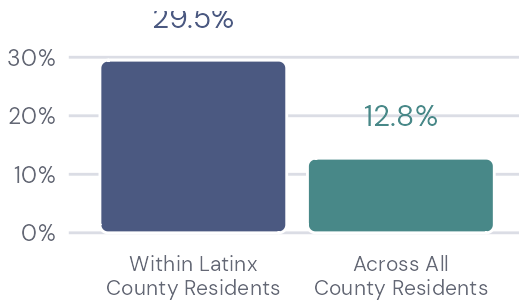
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$61,401**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

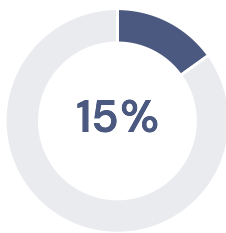


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

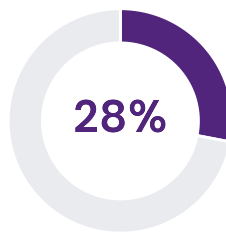


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

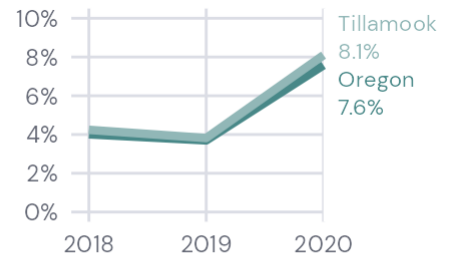
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



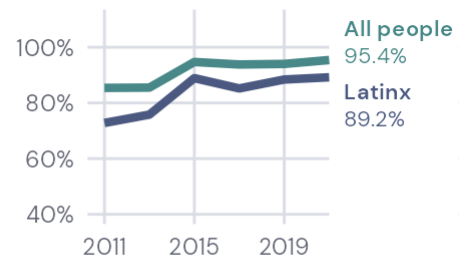
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.75**

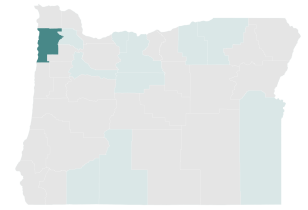
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$2.2M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



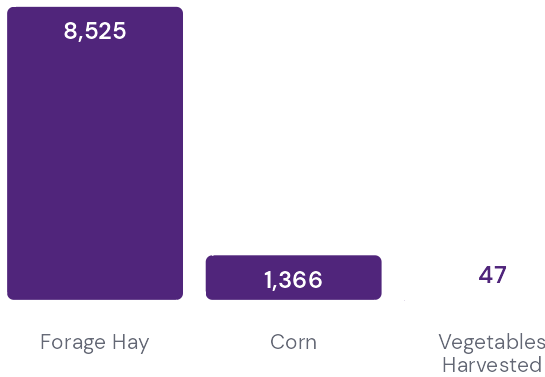
NUMBER OF FARMS

75

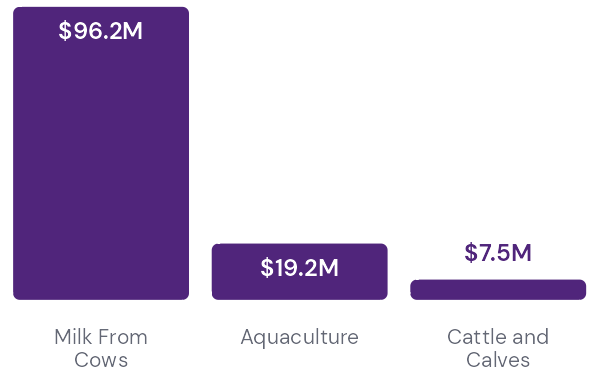
FARMLAND ACRES

11,751

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



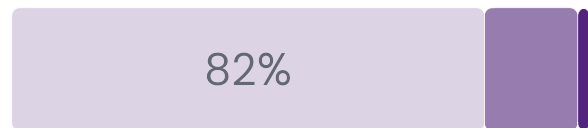
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

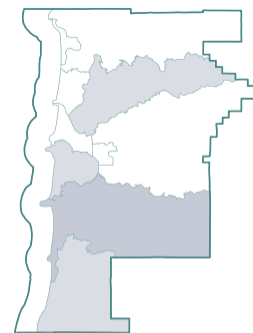
Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10    10 to 50    50 to 100

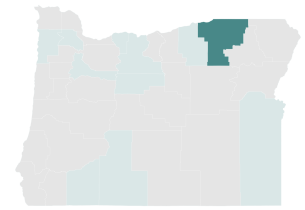


## FOOD DESERTS

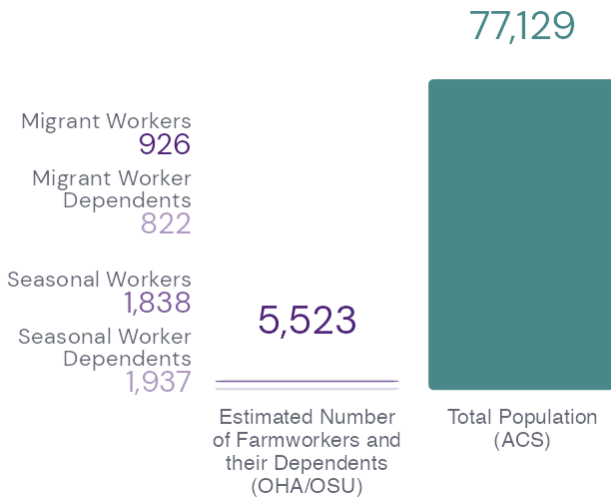
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Tillamook County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



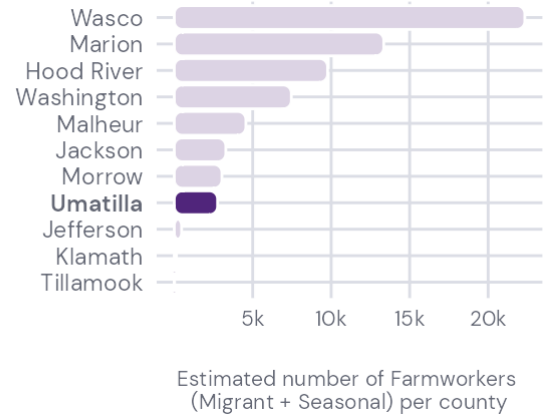
# Demographics



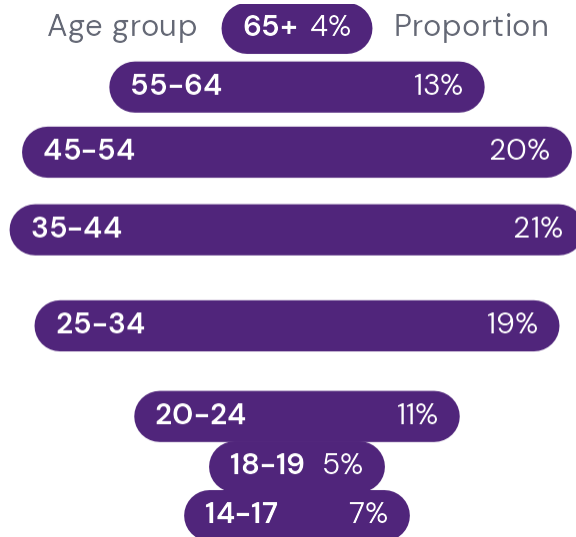
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



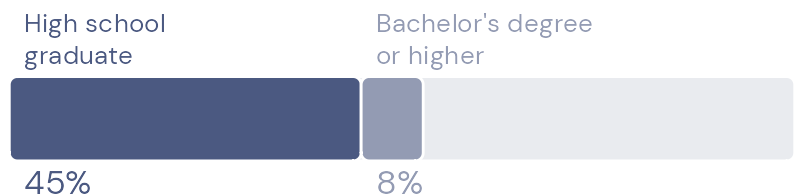
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



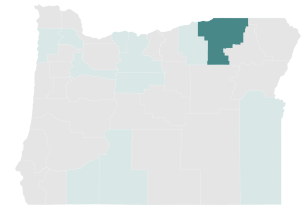
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



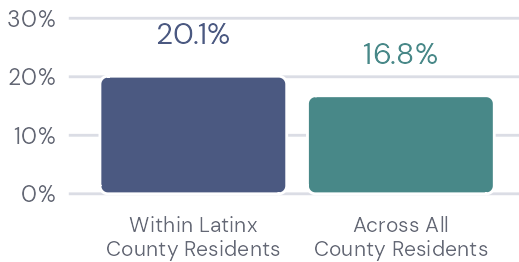
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$55,994**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

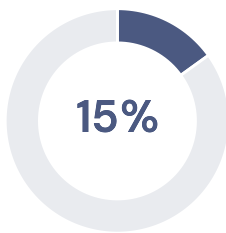


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

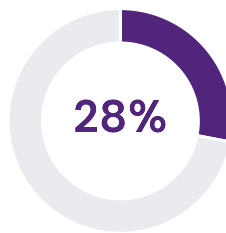


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

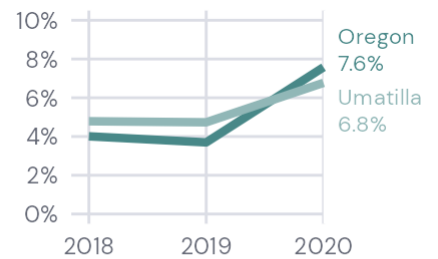
LATINX



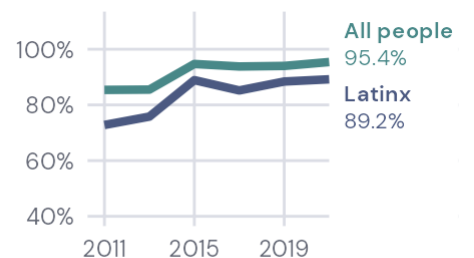
FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



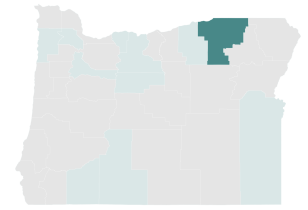
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.08**

MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$5.2M**

# Infrastructure



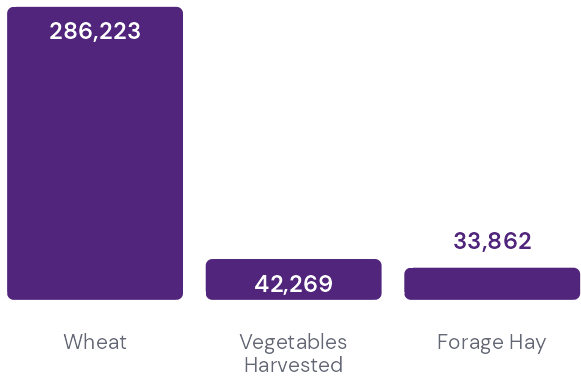
NUMBER OF FARMS

1,021

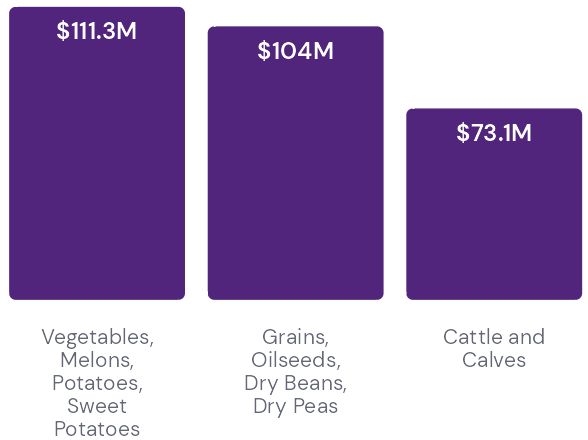
FARMLAND ACRES

514,373

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



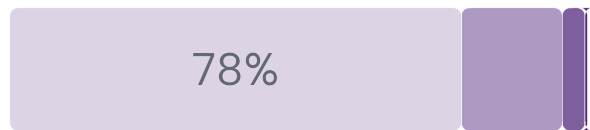
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

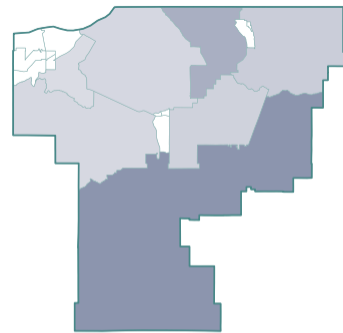
Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Legend: Less than 10, 10 to 50, 50 to 100, Greater than 100

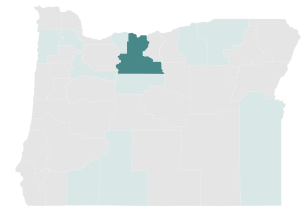


## FOOD DESERTS

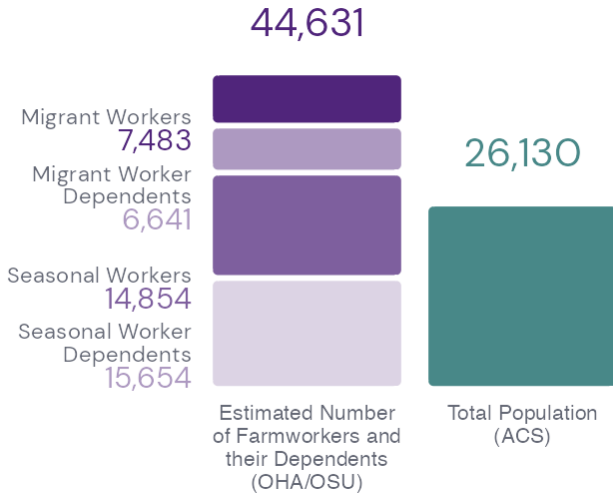
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Umatilla County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



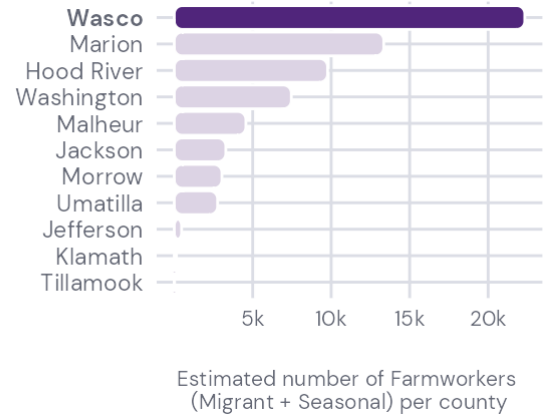
# Demographics



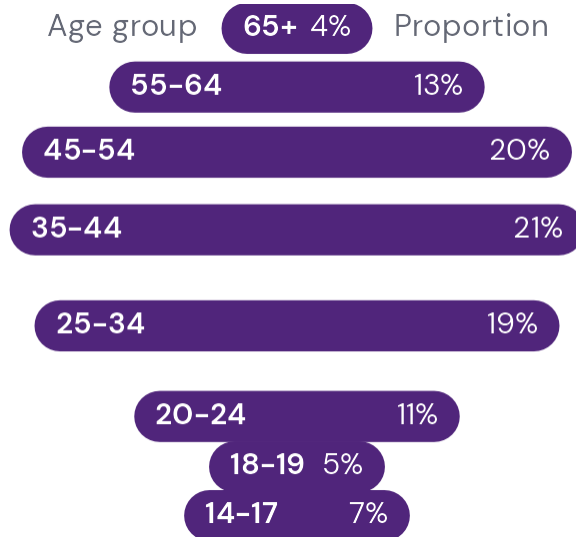
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



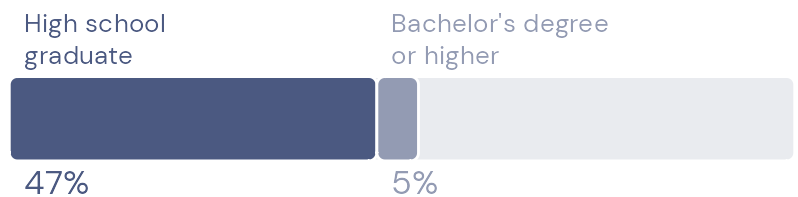
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

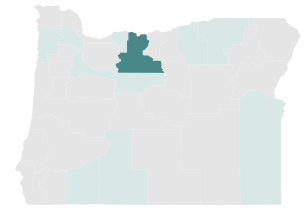
**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION





# Poverty



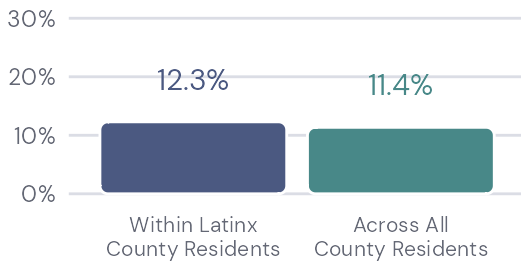
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE  
FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$69,798**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE  
FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW  
POVERTY LEVEL

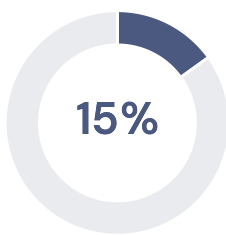


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

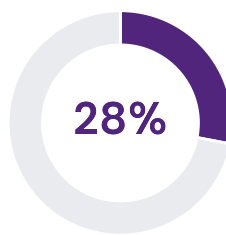


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

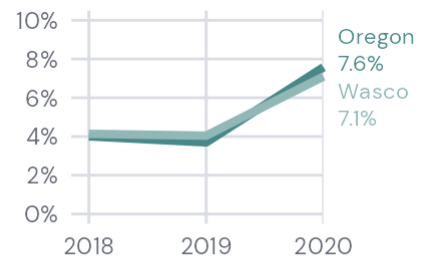
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



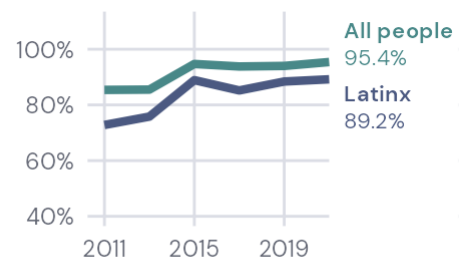
AVERAGE COST OF A  
MEAL

**\$3.75**

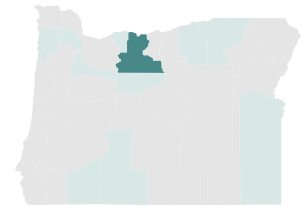
MONEY NEEDED TO  
PROVIDE FOOD  
SECURITY

**\$2M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE  
RATE\*



# Infrastructure



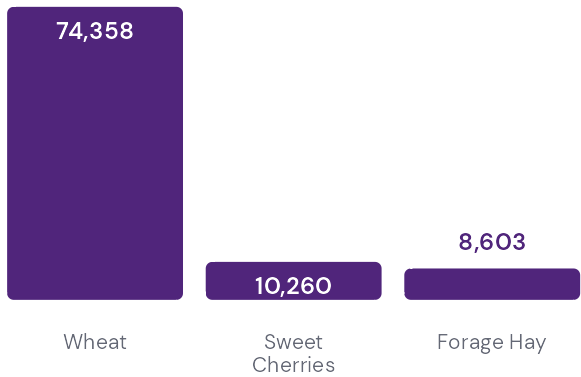
NUMBER OF FARMS

266

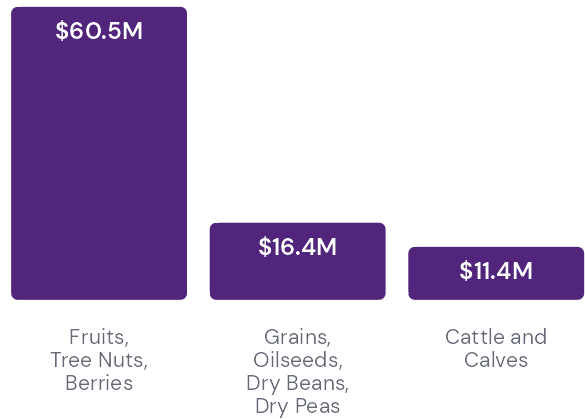
FARMLAND ACRES

431,722

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



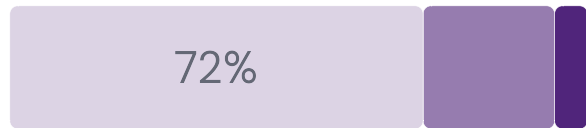
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

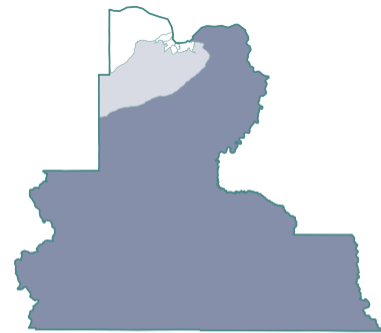
Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10 10 to 50 50 to 100

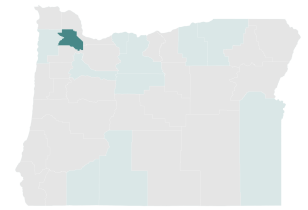


## FOOD DESERTS

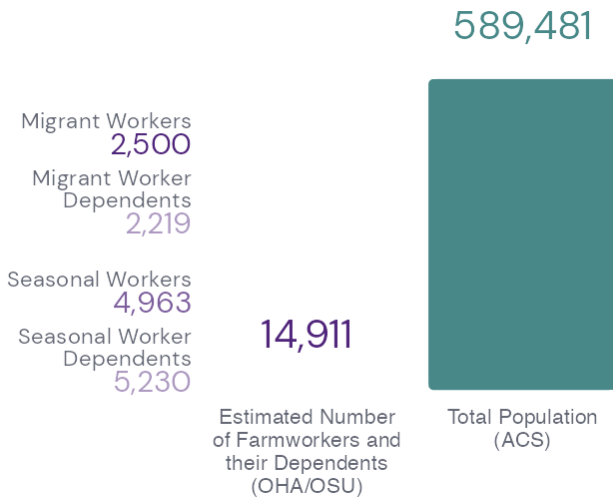
The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Wasco County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.



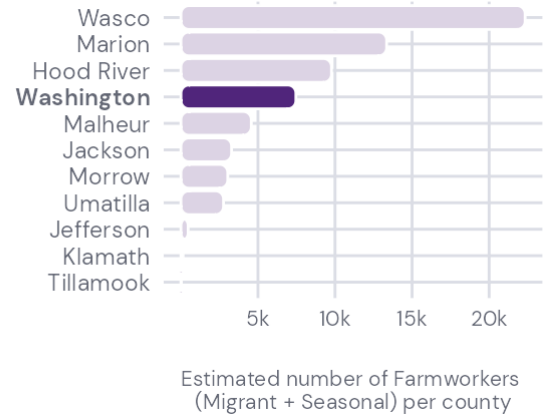
# Demographics



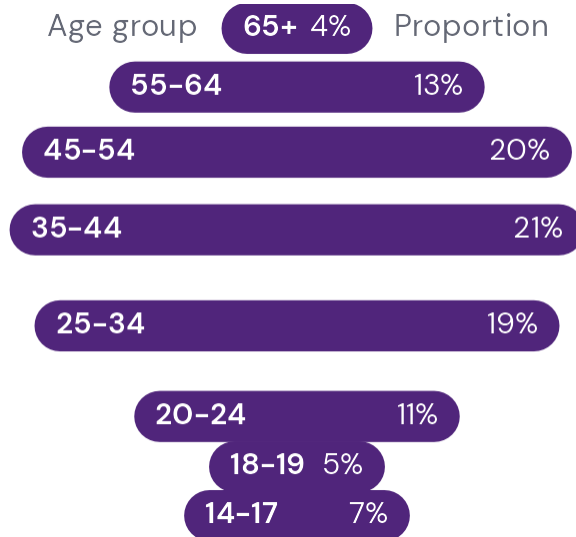
## FARMWORKERS, DEPENDENTS AND TOTAL POPULATION



## FARMWORKER POPULATION PER COUNTY



## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## ETHNICITY OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



## GENDER OF FARMWORKER POPULATION\*



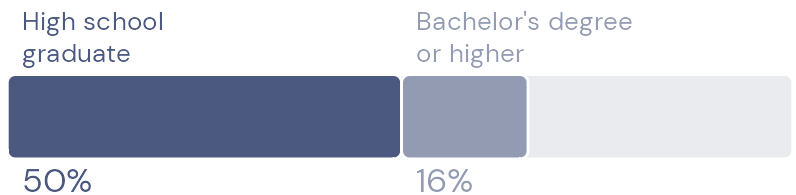
## LEGAL STATUS OF LATINX POPULATION



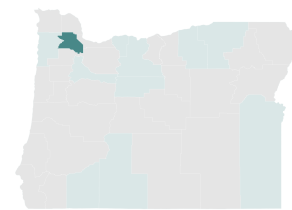
## MIGRANT STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE\*

**75.2%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LATINX POPULATION



# Poverty



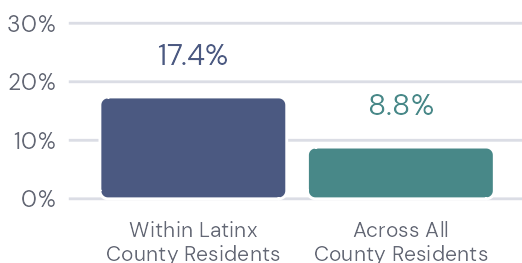
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR

**\$83,667**

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR FARMWORK\*

**\$16.15**

PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

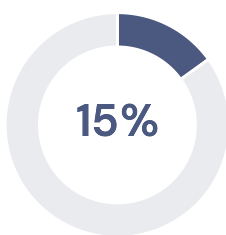


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY/POVERTY LEVEL

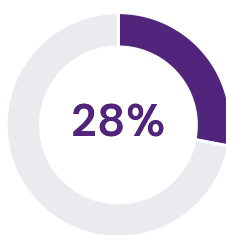


PERCENT EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY\*

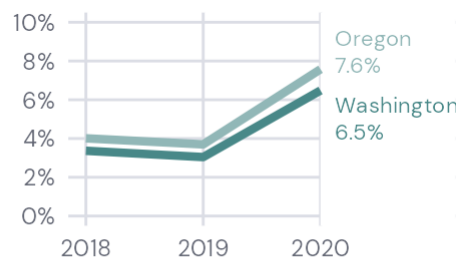
LATINX



FARMWORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT



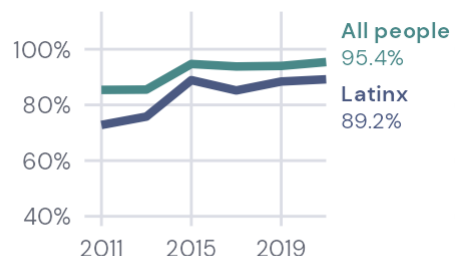
AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL

**\$3.39**

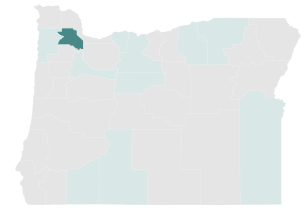
MONEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY

**\$28.6M**

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE RATE\*



# Infrastructure



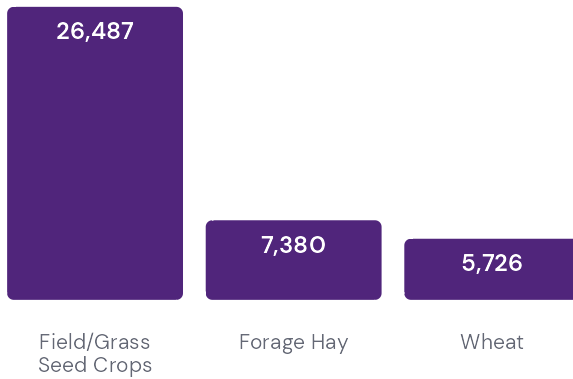
NUMBER OF FARMS

608

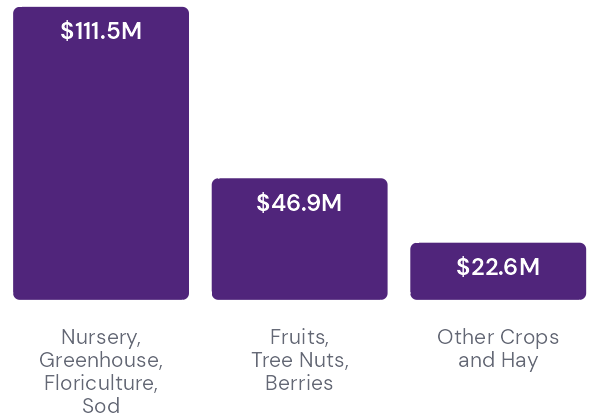
FARMLAND ACRES

54,990

ACRES OF TOP THREE CROPS



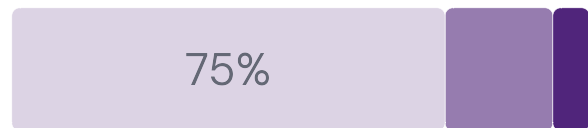
TOP THREE CROP SALES



## INTERNET SPEEDS

Data on internet speeds comes from the Federal Communications Commission. Data was aggregated at the county level and the charts here show the average download speed in megabytes per second.

Less than 10    10 to 50    50 to 100



## FOOD DESERTS

The map here shows the percentage of each census tract in Washington County who are Latinx and live 10 or more miles from a supermarket. Darker shading indicates more of the Latinx population lives in a food desert.

