



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

December 20, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Patterson,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) with a request for support from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control for a continued effort to deliver EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) education to Maine's farmworkers during the 2022 harvest season.

Throughout the 2021 season, the Maine Mobile Health Program worked to provide the Worker Protection Standard (PST) training to farmworkers across the state. The program recruited one returning PST trainer together with a new trainer who was multilingual with the capacity to speak in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. One highlight from the season included training a crew of Haitian blueberry rakers in their native language. It was the first time ever that they had received the WPS content. Additionally, these two employees allowed the program to accommodate all trainings requested for the farmworkers across the state. While the trainers were able to utilize COVID-19 safety precautions developed in 2020, there were continued barriers to offering the training more extensively as many growers still sought to maintain quarantines for incoming workers and other crew sizes were small, especially in blueberries, due to the on-going pandemic.

Despite the challenges, our PST trainers were able to offer training in the WPS to 128 farmworkers across Maine in addition to curricula from the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) on occupational safety. The table included here breaks down, by education topic, important outcomes in 2021 completed by the staff members.

FWs trained in Worker Protection Standard	128
FWs trained in Take Home Exposure	10
Heat Stress Trainings	108

I also share an update that in 2021 the recipient of funding for the Farmworker Jobs Program shifted from the Eastern Maine Development Corporation to the Pathstone Corporation. In conversations with the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, we learned that the Maine Mobile Health



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Program would still be eligible as a recipient for funding to continue education efforts and has been awarded \$2,870 to MMHP in support of on-going WPS training in 2022. MMHP plans to use these funds to support the staff time for multilingual WPS and occupational health trainings to farmworkers across the state. We request from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control a contribution of \$6,432 which we would leverage with the funds from AFOP. The funding from the Board of Pesticides Control will be used to fund the staff person who provides WPS trainings; including both the hourly wage and the travel and lodging required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners along with the overhead of managing the grant and project. We request that the funding be made directly to MMHP.

We thank the Board for its past support and for considering this current proposal. To contact us about this request or our activities, please feel free to contact Liz Charles McGough ([echarles@mainemobile.org](mailto:echarles@mainemobile.org), 207-441-1633).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Charles McGough".

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