Appendix II: Resources and Partnerships

As discussed in Chapter 4, recruiters often find locating migratory children and their families to be the most time-consuming and labor intensive of their duties. To find migratory children efficiently and effectively, the recruiter should start by determining which local people and organizations are known and trusted within the migratory community. These are the recruiter’s best sources of information and referrals.

In determining which organizations are the most productive for the recruiter to network with, the recruiter should answer the following questions:

* Which organizations serve migratory farmworkers?
* Which stores and businesses cater to migratory farmworkers?
* Which organizations in the community speak the same language as local farmworkers?
* Which organizations provide outreach services to migratory farmworkers? For example, these organizations could include the outreach workers at the One-Stop Career Centers, National Farmworker Jobs Training Grantees, and Migrant Head Start programs. In addition, recruiters might want to contact the Migrant Health Program, Farmworker Legal Services, and local religious and community-based organizations.
* Who knows where migratory farmworkers live? Does the farmer provide housing? A good starting place is to ask outreach workers from the local, state, and federal partner agencies listed below.
* Who inspects migratory labor housing? Each state has one or more entities that are charged with inspecting migratory labor housing. In some states, this is done by the State Department of Health. In other states this is done by the Department of Agriculture. Contact the [State Monitor](http://www.doleta.gov/programs/pdf/MA2005DIRECTORY.pdf) Advocate in your state to determine who conducts these inspections and if a list of the licensed labor camps in the state has been compiled. However, be aware that many farmworkers live in commercial housing that is not regulated or inspected.

The following are some organizations that collect information about or serve migratory families. Building a recruiting network with organizations like the following is an important part of a recruiter’s job:

U.S. Department of Education (ED) (<http://www.ed.gov>)

1. [College Assistance Migrant Program](http://www.ed.gov/programs/camp/index.html) (CAMP) (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/camp/index.html>). This program assists migratory and seasonal farmworkers and their immediate family members to successfully complete the first undergraduate year of study in a college or university, and provides follow-up services to help students continue in postsecondary education.
2. [High School Equivalency Program](http://www.ed.gov/programs/hep/index.html) (HEP) (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/hep/index.html)>. This program assists migratory and seasonal farmworkers and their immediate family members who are 16 years of age or older to obtain an HSED or the equivalent to a high school diploma and subsequently to gain employment in a career position, entry into the military, or entry into postsecondary education. Since most HEP programs are located at institutions of higher education (IHEs), migratory and seasonal farmworkers also have opportunities to attend cultural events, academic programs, and other educational and cultural activities usually not available to them.
3. Migrant Student Records Exchange Initiative (<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/recordstransfer.html>). This initiative assists states in developing effective methods to ensure the linkage of state migratory student information systems and in determining the number of migratory children in each state. The primary mission is to ensure the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for migratory children. [The Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX)](http://msix.ed.gov) is the technology that allows states to share educational and health information on migratory children who travel from state to state and who, as a result, have student records in multiple states' information systems. MSIX works in concert with the existing migratory student information systems that states currently use to manage their migratory student data to fulfill their mission to ensure the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for migratory children nationwide.
4. Binational Migrant Education Initiative (BMEI) (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/tchrqual/learn/binational.html>). The MEP, in concert with the Mexican government, has developed and promoted a Binational Migrant Education Initiative to improve the continuity and support of educational opportunities for migratory children who shuttle between both countries. The program has numerous components, including:
   * *Teacher Exchange Program* – Teachers from Mexico come to the U.S. to work for local MEP programs, usually during the summer. Also, teachers from the U.S. visit schools and towns in Mexico to learn about the Mexican educational system, curriculum, and culture.
   * *Transfer of Student Records* – In order for binational students to be promoted and accrue credits, students’ records need to be shared and interpreted in a timely and efficient manner between the two countries. The BMEI helps states and local MEPs in this effort.
   * *Free Textbooks from Mexico* – This is a free resource for MEPs and helps Mexican migratory students continue their Spanish language development in various content areas.

Additional efforts on behalf of binational migratory children are being conducted in many states. For more information, contact the Center for Migrant Education at Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666, 512-245-1365 or 866-245-1365 (toll free).

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) (<http://www.dol.gov>)

The DOL administers programs that are important resources for migratory farmworkers and their families and collects statistical information that can be useful in finding farmworkers and understanding their needs. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the DOL   
serves the American farmworker population through the following programs:

1. National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)   
   (<https://www.doleta.gov/Farmworker/>). The NFJP, which is authorized by Section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act, provides job training and employment assistance for legally residing migratory and other seasonally employed farmworkers and their families. Services may be obtained through the DOL’s local One-Stop Career Centers. The NFJP program is administered by community-based grantee organizations. Each grantee has one or more outreach workers. For more information, review a NFJP factsheet (<https://www.doleta.gov/programs/factsht/>) and the NFJP Grantee Directory (<https://www.doleta.gov/Farmworker/html/docs/NFJP_GranteeDirectory.cfm>).
2. NFJP Housing Assistance  
   (https://www.doleta.gov/Farmworker/html/housing.cfm) Funding is provided through a competition to community-based organizations to ensure that support for housing is provided to eligible migratory and seasonal farmworkers, giving priority to those who have the greatest need for housing assistance. Housing assistance includes direct payments for emergency and temporary housing and for direct investments in housing assistance for migratory and seasonal farmworkers at their home base. Indirect assistance includes leveraging services to increase or maintain housing available to farmworkers and housing development designed to improve living conditions for underserved farmworker communities.
3. State Workforce Agencies.   
   Each State Workforce Agency has a Monitor Advocate whose job is to ensure that domestic migratory and seasonal farmworkers receive equitable access to One-Stop Career Center (<https://www.careeronestop.org>) services include training, assessment, and job referral. Among other things, Monitor Advocates (1) participate in planning and operating DOL’s One-Stop Career Centers; (2) develop linkages with a broad range of stakeholders, including community- and employer-based organizations; (3) provide information on farmworker needs, characteristics, and concerns; and (4) ensure that all legal protections are afforded to farmworkers and that their complaints are resolved promptly. Each State Workforce Agency also has one or more outreach workers stationed throughout the state in the One-Stop Career Centers. The U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration website (<http://www.doleta.gov/programs/msfw.cfm>) provides more information on the Monitor Advocate System and includes a National Monitor Advocate Directory.
4. Temporary or Seasonal Agricultural Work Certification Program (H-2A) (<http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/h-2a.cfm>) The temporary agricultural program allows employers to hire temporary or seasonal foreign workers when there is a shortage of U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available. Certification that applicable conditions have been met is required before a foreign worker can be brought to the U.S. on an employment-based visa.

Employers are required to submit a complete labor certification application to the appropriate national processing center (<https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/states_npc.cfm>) and local state workforce administration at least 45 calendar days before the first date on which workers are needed. Many of the workers who come to the U.S. as part of the H-2A program are age 22 or over. Of those who are below the age of 22, recruiters should be aware that they may have come to the U.S. for the sole purpose of working and therefore may not be interested in receiving educational services.

Under the H-2A program, visas are issued to individuals for less than one year. Moreover, H-2A workers are not permitted to bring their families.

1. National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) (<http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>). The NAWS collects information on household and family composition, demographics, employment history, wages, benefits, working conditions, health, safety, housing, income, assets, social services, and legal status. The survey samples all crop farmworkers in three cycles each year to capture the seasonality of the work.
2. Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSPA) Program (<https://www.dol.gov/whd/mspa/>). The MSPA works to ensure that those who hire, employ, furnish, transport, or house migratory and seasonal farmworkers comply with the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (<https://www.dol.gov/whd/flsa>) and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act. Review the Employment Law Guide for Worker Protections in Agriculture (<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/mspa.htm>).

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (<http://ww.usda.gov>)

The USDA directly touches the lives of millions of families every day through a wide-range of programs. USDA (1) collects and maintains information on U.S. agricultural products; (2) leads the federal anti-hunger effort with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), historically and commonly known as the Food Stamp Program (FSP), child nutrition programs, the Women Infants and Children Program (WIC); and (3) brings housing, modern telecommunications, and safe drinking water to rural America.

1. [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>).The SNAP is a nutrition assistance program that provides crucial support to low income households to enable them to buy the food they need for good health. Participants receive a monthly allotment of benefits via an electronic benefit card, similar to a bank card, which is used to purchase food at authorized retail stores and farmer’s markets. SNAP benefits supplement the food budget of low-income individuals and families and enable them to purchase healthier foods like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Communities benefit from the economic impact of food stamp redemption in local stores.

A pre-screening tool or “calculator” (<http://www.snap-step1.usda.gov/fns>), available in English and Spanish, provides users with an estimate of eligibility and an estimate of the amount of benefits they could receive. Migratory families may apply for SNAP by contacting the local SNAP office. In some states, online applications are available. More information about SNAP benefits is available in English and Spanish by calling 1-800-221-5689. Review information about non-citizen eligibility requirements (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Non-Citizen_Guidance_063011.pdf>).

1. Child Nutrition Programs   
   (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>). These programs help children and some adults get the nutrition and nutrition education they need to be healthy and develop healthy eating habits, at school or as part of their day care. For example, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides nutritious lunches and snacks for free and reduced prices to low-income children while they are in school, in after-school care, or in summer school. Migratory children are automatically eligible for free school lunches and breakfasts once documentation of their status as migratory children has been provided to the LEA (where the school food program services are to be provided). When area schools are closed, the Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to children at parks, recreation centers, and other community sites. The Child and Adult Care Food Program serves children who are enrolled in child care, attending after-school care programs, or residing in emergency shelters. More child nutrition information is available online at.
2. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>). The WIC Program is a public health nutrition program providing nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low-income, nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5. Program policies ensure that WIC services are focused on the needs of the migratory population and ensure program access and services to them. WIC services are administered by state health departments and offered at community and migratory health centers.
3. Census of Agriculture   
   (<https://www.agcensus.usda.gov>). The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the nation's agricultural production and is the most comprehensive source of agricultural data available at the county level. USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the census of U.S. farms and ranches every five years. There are approximately two million farms in the U.S., and according to the 2012 census 18,911farms hired migratory farm labor and 3,360 farms reported migratory contract labor (USDA, 2014). The Census of Agriculture provides estimates of hired farm labor at the national, state, and county level.
4. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)  
   (<https://nifa.usda.gov>). The mission of NIFA is to advance knowledge of agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. These offices are staffed by experts who provide useful, practical, and research-based information to agricultural producers, small business owners, youth, consumers, and others in rural areas and communities of all sizes. The county extension service agent at the nearest Cooperative Extension Service (<https://nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory?state=MI&type=1862>).

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (<http://ww.hhs.gov>)

1. Migrant Health Program  
   (<https://www.farmworkerjustice.org/content/migrant-health-centers>). The Migrant Health program provides grants to community-based non-profit organizations to offer a broad array of culturally and linguistically competent medical and support services to migratory and seasonal farmworkers and their families, including both primary and preventative health care. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) administers this program.
2. Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/definition/migrant-seasonal-head-start-programs>).This program provides a comprehensive early childhood program for migratory and seasonal preschool children, from birth to compulsory school age. It offers education, health, nutrition, social, and transportation services. The federal Migrant and Seasonal Program Branch administers this program through local organizations. Additional resources include a locator for the closest Head Start program (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator)> and information on the [Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Quality Improvement Center](http://www.mhsqic.org/) (<http://www.mhsqic.org/>).
3. The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) (<http://www.medicaid.gov/index.html>). The Medicaid program helps people who can't afford to pay for medical care get the care they need. Medicaid, which provides direct payments to health care providers, is only available to low-income individuals and families who fit into an eligibility group recognized by federal and state law. Medicaid is a state administered program and each state sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services. Some states require individuals to pay a small part of the cost (co-payment) for some medical services.

Land-Grant Colleges and Cooperative Extension Agencies

Land-grant colleges and cooperative extension programs (<https://nifa.usda.gov/extension>) are administered through the USDA. Some services MEP staff may find of use include

* field representatives, commonly known as “county agents,” with established networks   
  of growers and farmers;
* network information in relation to harvests, forecasts, weather, and the latest cropping techniques; and
* information on harvesting trends, use of labor, and mechanization of crops.

Cooperative extension programs provide information on a variety of farm-related issues through county extension agents who visit local farms and through key contacts at land-grant colleges and universities. Agriculture faculty at these institutions often can provide valuable insights on changing harvesting trends, use of labor, mechanization of crops, and the human and political implications of these changes.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (<http://www.osha.gov>)

Services include

* training for farmworkers on issues such as safety and pesticides,
* assistance to growers using the guest worker programs,
* regulations on migratory housing, and
* lists of migratory housing and camps.

Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/>)

Information provided includes

* information on demographic changes; and
* projections on population changes by state, region, county, and city.

School Districts

Information provided includes

* lists of new enrollments and enrollment dates,
* contact information for program administrators,
* school calendars, and
* local policies.

Maintaining rapport and good communication with the district is important since, most often, they will be the principal providers of services to the children.