



DEPARTMENT OF
CAREER SERVICES

Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 14.441

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: **Webcast Posted - Labor Trafficking in U.S. Agriculture: Information to Help ES Staff Respond to Potential Trafficking**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Center Operators, and other workforce development partners that the US Department of Labor (US DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has posted a new webcast on ETA's technical assistance website WorkforceGPS, titled "**Labor Trafficking in U.S. Agriculture: Information to Help ES Staff Respond to Potential Trafficking**" and is available at:

<https://farmworker.workforcegps.org/resources/2022/02/01/16/15/Labor-Trafficking-in-U-S-Agriculture-Information-to-Help-ES-Staff-Respond-to-Potential-Trafficking>

Background: ETA presents this webcast in collaboration with Polaris, a Non-Governmental Organization, which receives funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to operate the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. This

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD/TTY 1-800-439-2370 - Voice 1-800-439-0183

webcast is for Advocates, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) outreach staff, and other Employment Service (ES) staff, including State Monitors.

The information may also benefit other American Job Center (AJC) staff. Through this webcast, Polaris presents information on labor trafficking, which is intended to help staff identify and respond to trafficking indicators and to understand their role in referring potential trafficking to enforcement agencies. State Workforce Agency ES staff must document and process suspected trafficking as either Apparent Violations or Complaints. Additionally, AJC partner staff may refer suspected trafficking to ES staff for appropriate tracking and processing through the Employment Service and Employment-Related Law Complaint System. While suspected trafficking must be referred to enforcement immediately, it is important to make sure ES staff fully document all cases.

Through this webcast, Polaris provides information on its work, including the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. Polaris explains a broad overview of human trafficking, including criminal law definitions. Polaris also presents data that Polaris has obtained through its hotline regarding labor trafficking in agriculture. Additionally, Polaris discusses tips for staff who may contact farmworkers, including trafficking indicators and useful practices for interacting with persons who may be in trafficking situations.

If you have any questions, please consult your ETA Regional Monitor Advocate or State Monitor Advocate. Contact information for each Monitor Advocate is available on ETA's website through this address: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/agriculture/monitor-advocate-system/contact>.

For information on the Monitor Advocate System, including information on what Monitor Advocates do, resources, and the Employment Service and Employment-Related Law Complaint System, please see:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/agriculture/monitor-advocate-system/>

Action

Requested: Please share this issuance with all appropriate managers, staff and partners.

Effective: Immediately.