



Potential Resources for Seasonal Farmworker Housing

Background

In many parts of the country, peak season for many labor-intensive commodities is quickly approaching. The [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce) (<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>) designates farm work as essential critical infrastructure. Although not required by law for domestic farm and fishery workers, often workers are provided housing by their employers. Moreover, the H-2A visa program requires that an employer provide housing to an H-2A worker and corresponding domestic non-H-2A workers who cannot reasonably return to their residence at the end of the workday. Typically, farmworker housing is communal, which could provide an increased risk for the spread of COVID-19. The federal government is engaging key stakeholders and gathering potential resources that may provide alternative options for farmers and migrant workers to protect worker safety and maintain critical working infrastructure. Employers should ensure that any options considered meet required regulatory housing standards.

The following pages outline potential federal, state, and philanthropic alternate housing opportunities for seasonal farmworkers and will be updated as additional opportunities are identified.

Potential Alternate Housing Opportunities for Seasonal Workers

| Opportunity | Description | Associated Links |
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| <p>HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and CDBG-CV grants</p> | <p>The CARES Act removed the cap on public services expenditures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, which increases flexibility for grantees and subrecipients to provide emergency grant payments to support housing. Emergency grant payments cannot exceed a period of three consecutive months and must be paid directly to a landlord. Other eligible activities can support housing, e.g., funding rehabilitation of migrant farmworker housing facilities or related infrastructure.</p> | <p>https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/disease/ https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_049 https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/budget/fy20/ (includes CDBG-CV allocations)</p> |
| <p>HUD Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG and ICDBG-CARES)</p> | <p>The ICDBG is a competitive grant program for eligible Indian Tribes intended for developing viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities primarily low- and moderate-income persons. The program regulations provide for two categories of grants: Single Purpose grants, and Imminent Threat grants to help respond to public health or safety of tribal residents. Additionally, the CARES Act provided \$100 million in funding for ICDBG Imminent Threat (ICDBG-CARES) grants to assist Indian Tribes and eligible Tribal organizations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. HUD is accepting applications for these ICDBG-CARES grants starting on June 1, 2020.</p> | <p>https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/icdbg https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/Covid_Recovery</p> |
| <p>HUD Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG and IHBG-CARES)</p> | <p>The Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG) is a formula grant that provides a range of affordable housing activities on Indian reservations and Indian areas. Eligible IHBG recipients are Federally recognized Indian tribes or their tribally designated housing entity (TDHE), and a limited number of state recognized tribes.</p> <p>Eligible activities include housing development, rental assistance, housing services, crime prevention, necessary housing-related infrastructure, and model activities that provide creative approaches to solving affordable housing problems.</p> <p>The CARES Act provided an additional \$200 million in funding for the IHBG program (IHBG-CARES). HUD allocated this funding to all eligible Indian tribes and TDHEs and is now in the process of making grant funding available to assist Tribal communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.</p> | <p>https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/ihbg https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/Covid_Recovery https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/IHBG-CARES_Formula_Allocations_4.3.20%20.pdf</p> |

Potential Alternate Housing Opportunities for Seasonal Workers (Continued)

| Opportunity | Description | Associated Links |
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| HUD Self-Help Home Ownership Opportunity | Authorizes HUD to make competitive grants to national and regional nonprofit organizations and consortia that have experience in providing or facilitating self-help housing opportunities. Grants are used by the grantee or its affiliates for eligible expenses in connection with developing non-luxury housing for low-income families and persons who otherwise would be unable to purchase a house. | https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms/shop |
| USDA Rural Housing Service | USDA's Rural Housing Service offers a variety of programs to build or improve housing and essential community facilities in rural areas. Loans, grants and loan guarantees for single- and multi-family housing, child-care centers, fire and police stations, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, schools, first responder vehicles and equipment, housing for farm laborers and much more. | https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-housing-service |
| USDA Rural Development Multi Family Housing Programs | USDA provides affordable multi-family rental housing in rural areas by financing projects geared for low-income, elderly and disabled individuals and families as well as domestic farm laborers. We extend our reach by guaranteeing loans for affordable rental housing designed for low to moderate-income residents in rural areas and towns. | https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/multi-family-housing-programs |
| USDA Rural Development Multi Family Housing Rental Assistance | This program provides payments to owners of USDA-financed Rural Rental Housing or Farm Labor Housing projects on behalf of low-income tenants unable to pay their full rent. | https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multi-family-housing-rental-assistance |
| USDA Rural Development Farm Labor Housing Direct Loans and Grants | Provides affordable financing to develop housing for year-round and migrant or seasonal domestic farm laborers | https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-labor-housing-direct-loans-grants |

Potential Alternate Housing Opportunities for Seasonal Workers (Continued)

| Opportunity | Description | Associated Links |
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| <p align="center">Surplus Temporary Transportable Housing Units</p> | <p>FEMA periodically sells surplus temporary transportable housing units (TTHUs) at a fixed price or through donations to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. FEMA works with the General Services Administration (GSA) to auction surplus TTHUs. If a state, local, territorial, or tribal government is interested in buying FEMA TTHUs, they should contact their State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP). These state-run organizations coordinate with the federal program for the donation or negotiated sale of federal surplus property to public, tax-supported entities and eligible nonprofit tax-exempt organizations. SASPs may also provide search-only access to GSAXcess, which is a web-enabled platform where eligible customers can search for and select personal property. Currently, FEMA has approximately 148 TTHUs for sale in GSA. Additionally, several hundred recently deactivated TTHUs are in the process of being readied for sale. These are located in Texas, North Carolina, California, and Florida. It is the buyer’s responsibility to pick-up and remove the TTHU from the sales site.</p> | <p>https://gsaauctions.gov/gsaauctions/gsaauctions/</p> |
| <p align="center">National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) Housing Grantees</p> | <p>NFJP Housing grantees: The Department allocates funds for Housing Grants for permanent housing services and temporary housing services. Employers can reach out to the NFJP housing grantee in their area to see if farmworkers qualify for assistance.</p> | <p>https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/agriculture/grants/housing</p> |
| <p align="center">National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) Career Service and Training (CST) grantees</p> | <p>NFJP CST grantees may provide housing services to eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers as described in their program plan. Additionally, CST grantees may provide emergency assistance, including temporary housing services, to farmworkers. Under certain circumstances, NFJP grantees may provide emergency assistance to H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers (H-2A workers) to address an immediate and short-term need. Employers can reach out to the NFJP CST grantee in their area to see if farmworkers will qualify for assistance.</p> | <p>https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/agriculture/career-services</p> |

Potential Alternate Housing Opportunities for Seasonal Workers (Continued)

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| <p align="center">State and Local Resources</p> | <p>In addition to the federal resources listed above, many state and local governments offer support, assistance, or other information for employers. These links point to other opportunities that may be available.</p> | <p>State Departments of Agriculture directory: https://www.nasda.org/states/state-directory</p> <p>State Rural Development Offices: https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices</p> <p>Local Workforce Contacts: https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/local-help.aspx</p> <p>Cooperative Extension Service</p> <p>CDC’s Directory of State & Territorial Health Department Websites: https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html</p> <p>NACCHO’s Directory of Local Health Departments: https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory</p> |