



Eastern Maine Development Corporation

RECEIVED
FEB 09 2010

BY:

Leading Eastern Maine Communities to a Strong Economic Future

February 3, 2010

Mr. Henry Jennings, Director
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Jennings,

On behalf of Eastern Maine Development Corporation and the Maine Migrant Health Program, I submit this letter to inform your Board about a new collaborative AmeriCorps project that would provide worker safety education to farmworkers during the 2010 agricultural season.

As of July 1, 2009, Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) became the new grantee of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP), succeeding Training and Development Corporation. EMDC was awarded AmeriCorps funding to support worker protection in 2010 (through the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs). Nationwide this AmeriCorps program has helped train over a quarter of a million farmworkers and youth in pesticide safety.

Outcomes in 2008 and 2009 were achieved through outreach to migrant camps and farms. Outreach workers are always bilingual, as Spanish and Kreyol language proficiency has proven essential in serving the migrant worker population. In 2008, 380 farmworkers were trained in health and safety. In 2009 170 farmworkers were trained. Unfortunately, last year's disbursement to support these activities was not received by MMHP, due to Training & Development Corporation's (the previous grantee for the NFJP) unanticipated financial and organizational dissolution on June 30, 2009. This impacted MMHP's staff capacity (there was one less outreach worker), and consequently our ability to deliver pesticide safety education to as many farmworkers as have been historically trained.

In 2010, the Maine Migrant Health Program plans to resume pesticide safety outreach with Eastern Maine Development Corporation, and at this time asks for the Board's consideration to again provide the same level of support and service important to growers and farmworkers in Maine by making a contribution. To assure that it directly supports program activities, our request is that the funding would go directly to MMHP. In 2010 the MMHP/EMDC partnership will recruit 2 AmeriCorps summer members - one based in eastern Maine and one based primarily in Aroostook county. In previous years,



Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Leading Eastern Maine Communities to a Strong Economic Future

support from the Board has provided the cash match needed to operate the AmeriCorps program in Maine. The required 2010 AmeriCorps cost share is \$3,538 (\$1,769 per 450-hour member).

The following table summarizes the levels of services to be completed by the two AmeriCorps members:

Pesticide Safety Trainings-Adults	300
Take home exposure trainings to farmworker families and caregivers	100
Other trainings: environmental and health.	50
Other direct services (translation, transportation, food assistance, and other types of health/educational training	50
Partnerships with growers, farmworker service providers, and migrant health providers	38
Referrals to other health, education, and supportive services	24
Volunteers recruited	10

Thank you for your past support and for consideration of this request. For more information regarding Eastern Maine Development Corporation or the AFOP AmeriCorps program, you may contact me by email (chuh@emdc.org) or phone (207-561-4030). Barbara and I look forward to meeting with the Board in March to further discuss this collaboration.

Best Regards,

Christopher Huh, MPA
Program Manager
Farmworker Jobs Program
Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Barbara L. Ginley, MPH
Executive Director
ME Migrant Health Program