



Opportunities for Success for Out-of-School Youth

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Overview of OSY Grant

The Opportunities for Success for Out-of-School Youth (**OSY**) Migrant Education Program (MEP) Consortium Incentive Grant includes the 15 states of Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas (lead), Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont as well as the 2 partner states of Georgia and Maryland.

OSY was formed to address the growing out-of-school population among MEP secondary-aged youth, to design a well formulated process for assessing different needs within this population, and to develop appropriate service delivery models for out-of-school youth (OSY) who would like to continue their education and for those who are here-to-work.

The **goal** of **OSY** is to design, develop, and disseminate a system to identify and recruit, assess, and develop/deliver services to migrant out-of-school youth, provide professional development to support these activities, and institutionalize OSY services into State plans to elevate the quantity and quality of services to this large, under-served population.



I came from Guatemala because it is impossible to live there. In my country there is a lot of war; that's why I looked for a better place to live my life. I prayed to God that nothing else would happen, and then I decided to come here, to earn money to send back to my parents. Still, I have to go back to take care of them. They are alone now; and there is no one else to look after them. I have no brothers or sisters. That is why I will return.

- Ramiro Gomes

FARMWORKER INFO

From 1950 to 2001, the average number of family farmworkers declined while the average number of single male and females farmworkers increased. (Farm Labor Survey)

Recent Economic Research Service (ERS) research on hired farmworkers reveal a higher proportion who are foreign-born, single, have limited English language skills, and have less U.S. working experience than workers in other sectors of the economy.

OSY Leadership Team Meeting

OSY Leadership Team Members are Norma Cregan, John Farrell and Ron Johnson, Kansas; Carolyn Mathews and Ray Melecio, Florida; Brenda Pessin, Illinois; Mary Ann Losh, Nebraska; Barbie Patch, New Hampshire; Roberto Reyes, New York; Betty Black, South Carolina; Mary Mul-

loy, Vermont; Bob Lynch, National PASS Center; Patricia Meyertholen, Project Director; and Susan Duron and Marty Jacobson, Projector Evaluators.

The first meeting of the **OSY** Leadership Team took place on January 8-9, 2009, in Alexandria, Virginia, at the Old Town

Alexandria Hilton Hotel.

Agenda items included a review of **OSY** timelines and activities, reporting and evaluation, role of the collaborative partners, and presentation to the State Directors at the February MEP Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. .



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Tips for Recruiting Out-of-School Youth

Educational Bags used for out-of-school youth are canvas gym bags filled with educational tools such as Spanish/English dictionaries, tapes and workbooks, problem-solving games, and personal items such as shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, soap, etc.

The bags are an effective incentive when recruiting out-of-school youth. They establish a sense of trust toward the program, and they are essential for the well being of youth who may be traveling with no resources.

For more information concerning the **OSY** Consortium contact:

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Visit the **OSY** Website at:

<http://www.osymigrant.org>

Why Should the MEP Target Out-of-School Youth?

OSY have unique needs resulting from their migrant lifestyle. They face all the obstacles to education encountered by other migrant students, and then more.

With the current focus by NCLB on high-stakes accountability, these youth may often be the first to be pushed out and the first to be forgotten.

OSY need advocates, people who can both motivate them and help them access needed services.

Young people not in school have little or no access to federal or state resources.

Without increased educational attainment or improved English language skills, OSY will remain poor and isolated from the larger society and economy.

Demographic patterns in the MEP are shifting away from the migration of families toward the migration of single males and females.

OSY is the fastest growing MEP population:

- Youth not currently enrolled who do not have their diploma or GED;
- Recovery youth; or
- Here-to-work youth.

Collaborative Partner Information

The 3 partner entities listed below offer the capacity for **OSY** to elevate MEP services to out-of-school youth.

The National PASS Center (NPC), established in 1997, serves as a national clearinghouse and coordinating center for bringing PASS (Portable Assisted Study Sequence) courses into alignment with current academic learning standards. Located in western New York as part of the Geneseo Migrant Center, the NPC oversees the development of academically rigorous yet accessible and cost-effective courses, provides support materials and trainings, and acts as a resource for information on program implementation, promising practices, and state contacts. The NPC is funded by state participation and distribution site license fees, as well as periodic, course-specific grants from various entities. For information, visit the website at: <http://migrant.net/pass>

The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH), established in 1975, is dedicated to improving the health status of farmworker families by providing information services and products to a network of more than 500 migrant health center service sites in the U.S. as well as organizations, universities, researchers, and individuals involved in farmworker health.

NCFH is a private, not-for-profit corporation located in Buda, Texas whose mission is "to improve the health status of farmworker families through appropriate application of human, technical, and information resources." NCFH programs, products and services include migrant and farmworker resources, training and technical assistance, staff development, health education, program development, policy analysis and case management of primary care services. For information, visit the website at: <http://www.ncfh.org>

The High-School Equivalency Program (HEP) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), established in 1967 and 1972, are educational programs which serve students from migrant or seasonal farmworker families.

HEP helps students who have dropped out of high school get their GED, and serves more than 7,000 students annually. CAMP assists students in their first year of college with academic, personal, and financial support. CAMP serves approximately 2,400 migrant participants annually.

These two programs are funded through grants from the U.S.D.E., Office of Migrant Education and are administered by universities, colleges and non-profit organizations nationwide. For information, visit the website at: <http://www.hepcamp.com>