



Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

The National Farmworker Jobs Program

Meeting Business Demands & Securing Futures for America's Farmworkers

Right now there are more than 12 million people who can't find a job. Yet, business leaders report job openings remain unfilled due to a shortage in workers with the skills these positions require. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are among the nation's most vulnerable in the current economic climate. The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) educates and trains *eligible farmworkers*¹ for jobs to meet these employers' demands in a fiscally responsible way.

The NFJP is a highly successful federal job training program. Considering the barriers to success farmworkers typically face (see box to the right) and the depth of unemployment in rural America, the nonprofit and public agencies that operate this program do a remarkable job. The NFJP exceeds all of the major goals established by the Department of Labor, according to the DOL's most recent Workforce System Results publication. It is funded through a competitive grant process that selects providers best qualified to serve farmworkers efficiently and effectively.

Competition and Results

The NFJP continues to exceed DOL common measures standards with providers achieving a national entered employment rate of 82.6% and an Employment Retention Rate of 80.9%. In addition, the program offers a 114% return on investment for the government and a 316% return to their community and state.

AFOP recognizes national policymakers face challenges in managing the federal budget and with limited resources. This is why it is important to invest wisely in programs that work and secure the future of our nation's businesses and workers.

It is essential that at a minimum funding for the NFJP be maintained at FY 2012 levels to continue serving this exceptionally vulnerable population.

The success of the NFJP is a direct result of the expertise of AFOP's 52 non-profit and public agencies in addressing the needs and barriers unique to the migrant and seasonal farmworker population. These services AFOP members provide are integral to the agriculture industry's success and, consequently, the country's pursuit of job creation and economic stability.

¹ Eligibility criteria stipulate farmworkers must provide proof of American citizenship or verification they are authorized to work in the United States as well as evidence they earn below the federal poverty line.



SUCCESS: THE BIGGER PICTURE

Farmworkers face significant barriers to success

- The average farmworker family of four earns just \$17,500 per year, well below the national poverty line.
- Most farmworkers' English language skills are very limited.
- More than half of migrant farmworker children drop out of school, and among all farmworkers, the median highest grade completed is 8th grade [National Agricultural Workers Survey].
- Most farmworkers have extremely limited transportation access due to poverty and their rural locations.

Many NFJP participants choose to enter the healthcare field or commercial truck driving. Others train for work in the wind energy sector, culinary arts, and for positions such as machinists, electrical linemen, and a variety of careers in and outside of agriculture.

The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs is the national federation of non-profit and public agencies that provide training and employment services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. For more information contact David Strauss, Executive Director, at 202-828-6006, ext 101 or strauss@afop.org

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FOR THE NATIONAL FARMWORKER JOBS PROGRAM

THE NFJP -- AN EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR FARMWORKERS

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) is authorized under Section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act and serves eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers with workforce development services and training. This report calculates the program's return on investment (ROI) for Program Year 2011-2012. ROI is calculated using the data from the three common measures that is used for all job training programs by the U.S Department of Labor for comparison purposes. This includes using earnings to calculate the ROI rather than earnings gained, as earnings gained data is only collected for the NFJP and would prohibit a direct comparison between it and the other Department of Labor programs. During this last year, the NFJP had an Entered Employment Rate of 82.6% and a Retention Rate of 80.9% with annual earnings of \$20,496.

NFJP -- PROGRAM RESULTS THROUGH FIRST QUARTER PY 2011

ENTERED EMPLOYMENT RATE	82.6%
RETENTION RATE FOR JOB PLACEMENTS	80.9%
TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMWORKERS PLACED IN JOBS	6,285
AVERAGE 6 MONTH EARNINGS	\$10,248

RETURN ON INVESTMENT CALCULATIONS

1 Total Costs (National Program)	\$78,104,743
2 Direct Tax Gains	\$21,328,285
3 Induced Tax Gains	\$34,181,322
4 Cost Savings to Government	\$33,702,442
5 Total Income to Farmworkers from Wages	\$95,880,288
6 Net Additional Income to Clients	\$48,514,255
7 Net Additional Income to Community	\$61,698,966

FOR EACH \$1.00 THE TAXPAYERS INVESTED IN THE NFJP

THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECT TAX GAINS, INDUCED TAX GAINS AND COST SAVINGS (2+3+4) IS	\$1.14
FARMWORKERS PLACED IN JOBS (5) EARN	\$1.23
THE NET ADDITIONAL INCOME TO RURAL COMMUNITIES FROM THESE EARNINGS (7) IS	\$0.79
THE TOTAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FOR THE FUNDS EXPENDED IS	\$3.16

Information calculated using data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Quarterly National Roll-Up for PY 2011 for Title I-Section 167 National Farmworker Jobs Program from 7/01/2011 to 6/30/2012. Our return on investment (ROI) model calculates direct returns to the government in the form of additional taxes and reduced transfer payments, the return to farmworkers from higher wages, and the return to the rural communities from increased income and jobs. The calculations also incorporate a discount factor of 8%.