



Agenda
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
2026 AFOP Leadership Conference
February 3 - 4, 2026
Hilton Old Town
Alexandria, VA

Subject to Change

(All events in Salon BC unless indicated)

Tuesday, February 3

- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting – (Salon BC)
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Senior Staff Training – (Potomac Room) – *Cheryl Torres, LCSW*
- Part I - Outreach & Marketing Peer Exchange
Outreach and marketing are more important than ever to get right in today's National Farmworker Jobs Program. In this section of the training, Ms. Torres will facilitate roundtable discussions, role plays, and group brainstorming of various outreach and marketing ideas.
- Part II – The Leader's Role in Creating a Safe Culture
Leaders need to model high levels of emotional intelligence, which is challenging in today's stressful climate as social service providers. Learn what mental health challenges prevail in our world and culture right now and how you might address them – not just for your employees, but for yourself, too!
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. President's Reception (Grand Ballroom Foyer)

Wednesday, February 4

- 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Welcome – *AFOP President, Clevon Young*
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Workforce Development Priorities at ETA – *Steve Rietzke, USDOL*
- The Employment & Training Administration (ETA) has outlined a broad strategy for workforce development that emphasizes demand-driven strategies, worker mobility, integrated systems, accountability, and flexibility and innovation. Some specific new priorities include scaling registered apprenticeship, expanding job training opportunities in artificial intelligence, and developing a well-aligned system that integrates workforce services. What do these priorities mean for NFJP? How can NFJP align itself with the broader workforce system in order to maximize opportunities for its participants?
- 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Opportunities in Apprenticeship – *Office of Apprenticeship, USDOL*
- Apprenticeships are growing at a rapid pace, including in Agriculture! USDOL will explain exactly how easy it can be to become a sponsor for Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and all the things that are on the horizon for apprenticeship that could positively impact NFJP grantees.

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<p>NFJP Policy Updates – <i>Laura Ibañez, USDOL</i></p> <p>The Employment & Training Administration will discuss program guidance to help grantees identify necessary changes they need to implement to align program policies and procedures with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.</p>
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p>Monitor Advocates, State Workforce Agencies, and NFJP Collaboration – <i>Timmy Dudley, National Monitor Advocate Team, USDOL</i></p> <p>The Monitor Advocate System (MAS) is a vital partner of NFJP in every state. In this presentation, Timmy Dudley from the National Monitor Advocate team will discuss key partnership work between NFJP and the MAS.</p>
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>NFJP Performance Reporting using the NFJP-Grant Performance Management System – <i>Stephanie Peña, USDOL</i></p> <p>USDOL will re-familiarize NFJP grantees with current performance reporting requirements and expectations, with a focus on reporting in the NFJP-Grant Performance Management System (GPMS). Participants will review key data elements, reporting timelines, and common compliance considerations, and will gain clarity on how GPMS supports accurate, consistent, and timely performance reporting in the current NFJP reporting environment.</p>
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Plated Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<p>Best Practices for Delivering a Standards-Based Farmworker Program – <i>Krister Engdahl, former Region 6 NFJP Federal Project Officer (FPO)</i></p> <p>The only constant in life is change. Retired FPO Krister Engdahl knows that well after 20 years in the federal service. Government grants require high levels of patience and flexibility, because the changes are incessant: new or revised common measures, changes to performance reporting, increases or decreases to the annual funding amounts, and the list goes on. How can you make certain that your organization stays abreast of these changes, year after year? Mr. Engdahl has the answers.</p>
1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<p>Implementing Practical, Industry-Oriented Sector Strategies – <i>Melanie Magill, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Central Career Center</i></p> <p>Curious how NFJP grantees can further integrate themselves into the fabric of their state or regional sector strategies? Hear from Melanie Magill about how her Workforce Development Board built Sector Strategies from the ground up, and how she thinks NFJP could fit into the bigger picture.</p>
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p>Know Your Rights Training for Businesses – <i>Alice Barrett and Flor de Maria Burden, CASA</i></p> <p>This session will provide participants with practical information about their legal rights and responsibilities in everyday workplace situations, covering topics such as interacting with law enforcement, understanding due process, protecting privacy, and accessing legal resources. Designed to be informative and empowering, the presentation will help individuals make informed decisions and recognize when to seek legal assistance.</p>
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	AFOP President Clevon Young Closes Training Day