“Who we are”

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency that has been supporting communities throughout Oswego County since 1966.

The agency serves over 24,000 people each year through more than 50 programs. OCO is one of the top 10 largest private employers in Oswego County with nearly 550 employees and 1,200-plus volunteers.

The agency is funded primarily by federal and state dollars, along with fee for service and local support, including United Way of Oswego County.

OCO puts its money where its mission is: more than 90 cents of every dollar goes to program services.
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.

Mission
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.
Inspires partnerships and provides services that empower people, support communities, and change lives

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- Centers for Reproductive Health
- Insurance Enrollment
- Cancer Screening Services
- Migrant Health Care
- Rural Health Network
- W.I.C.
- Home delivered meals (Adults)
- Dining & Activity Centers
- Summer Food Program
- After-School Feeding Program
Training & Outreach on Cultural Diversity and Humility

- Increase sensitivity and diversity amongst employees, providers and community
- Increase community awareness
- Develop tools to enhance communication to LEP (Limited English Proficient) speaking clients.
Migrant Health
History of Migrant Farmworkers:

*1917 WW I - As a result of the war, the country was faced with growing war time food demands and an increased shortage of agricultural laborers. Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1917. This law established a legal basis for the importation of some 73,000 Mexican workers.

*12/8/41 WW II - The United States entered World War II on. To meet the challenge of war, industrial and agricultural production increased and much of the nation's human resources were diverted to the military. Similar to their experiences in World War I, commercial farmers faced a high demand for their products, but growers were without sufficient labor to produce them. The United States once again called upon Mexico to fill the labor void. The two countries signed the Bracero Agreement in 1943, which began the importation of laborers or "braceros" from Mexico to work in the United States.

*Although originally devised to meet World War II shortages, the Bracero Program continued until 1964 under a variety of legislative authorities, ultimately employing 5 million Mexican laborers. Following the termination of the Bracero Program in 1964, farm employers turned to the H-2 program for their labor needs. This program, now known as the H-2A program, continues today.
What is a Migrant Farmworker?

A Migrant Farmworker is defined as any individual whose principal employment, (within the last 24 months) is agriculture. Who establishes for the purpose of such employment a temporary abode.

This includes individuals engaged in:

- Field and orchard agriculture
- Packing and sorting (including nursery operations, greenhouse, activities, crops and undercover landscaping)
- Reforestation
What is a Seasonal Farmworker?

A Seasonal Farmworker is defined as any individual with the same definition whose principal employment is agriculture on a seasonal basis, who has been employed within the last 24 months.

- In addition, individuals working with livestock, poultry, and fisheries as well as adult family members of a farmworker and temporary H-2A foreign workers.
What is an H-2A Worker?

A H-2A worker is defined as any individual whose principal employment is agriculture and is employed by the U.S. guest worker program. This has been the primary legal mechanism through which the U.S. employers have hired seasonal agricultural guest workers. To import an agricultural guest worker under the H-2A program, an employer must first meet the requirements set forth in statute and corresponding federal regulations.
Migration patterns

- *Eastern Stream - (In recent years, farmworkers in the East Coast Stream are predominately Mexican and Mexican-American migrants along with some Southeast Asian immigrants, Haitian migrants based in Florida, and Jamaican H-2A guest workers.)

- Western Stream

- Mid-Western Stream

Frequent migration is an unavoidable circumstance of farmworker employment. It is not unusual for farmworkers to move 11-13 times a year in search of work.
Farmworker information

- **Average age:**
  - Twelve percent of respondents are age 55 or over
  - 17% are 45 - 54 years old
  - 25% are 35 - 44 years old,
  - 29% are 25 – 34 years old
  - 18% are 14 - 24 years old.

- **Sex:**
  - Predominately male - 72%

- **Ethnic: (83% Hispanic)**
  - Mexican
  - Guatemalan
  - Puerto Rican
  - Jamaican
  - Burmese

- **Origin:**
  - Mexico
  - Guatemala
  - Puerto Rico
Farmworker information

- Burma
- Jamaica
- Cuba

Language:
- 81% Spanish
- 18% English
- 2% other languages

Health concerns

There are approximately 2.4 million agricultural workers employed on farms and ranches in the United States. Statistics on the health of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers from data collected from 3,026 agricultural workers by the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) during the fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Population estimates are challenging to determine because agricultural labor requirements may vary greatly between the different phases of planting, cultivating, harvesting, and processing crops in any given area and these numbers may further fluctuate based on weather conditions.
Goal

Provide access to Health and Enabling services

- Interpretation & Translation
  - At points of service (Doctors, DSS, dental, school, work etc)

- Transportation
  - At points of service (Doctors, DSS, dental, WIC, etc)

- Health Education
  - Immunizations
  - Personal hygiene
  - Chronic & Acute Disease processes (DM, HTN, TB)
  - STI/HIV
  - Occupational safety
  - Workers rights
  - Preventive Medicine
  - Oral health
  - Alcohol & Drug abuse
Goal
Provide access to Health and Enabling services

- WHERE: (Where-ever it is conducive to the worker)
  - Homes
  - Church
  - Provider office
  - Vehicles
  - In camp

- WHEN: (When-ever it is conducive to the worker)
  - Week-ends
  - Lunch time
  - Evenings

- Referrals
- Case management
- Advocacy
  - Legal
  - Language
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Spiritual
  - Financial
Education is provided at every opportunity

Infant care

Breast Cancer Awareness

Newborn Care
Education and Advocacy is provided on:

- Prenatal and Perinatal case management
- Birthing plan
- Hospital tour
- Dental care
- Postpartum care
- Infant case management (car seat training, crib safety – SIDS)
- Lactation advocacy
- New born care
- Parenting education
- Birth Control Options
- Breast & Cervical cancer’s,
- Domestic Violence

*Such services are rendered in a culturally sensitive manner.*
Case Management

- Assist with area and national charity care programs.
- FQHC (Discount fee programs)
- Indigent programs
- Advocate for reduced cost at specialty providers.
- Market Place
- Workman's Compensation
- Medication Assistance and advocacy
This gentleman could not believe he could see, he read the book all the way back to camp.

Dr. Malara
Gift of Sight Program
Dental Services

Collaboration with Finger Lakes Mobile Dental program and local dental providers.