



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information

Rod Ritcherson

rod@ritchersoncompanies.com

608-334-2220

FARM WORKERS AND MEATPACKERS TO RECEIVE \$600 IN RELIEF PAYMENTS

*UMOS awarded \$56.9 million grant to assist
75,000 farm workers, meatpackers nationwide, over 14,000 in Wisconsin*

The United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded 15 non-profits over \$600 million in Farm and Food Workers Relief Program grants to assist farm workers, meatpackers, and grocery workers nationwide with direct Covid-19 related relief payments. UMOs, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will receive \$56,886,475 to implement the program in thirteen states.

A one-time direct payment of \$600 will be made to over 75,000 eligible applicants nation-wide within a two-year period. In Wisconsin, UMOs anticipates dispersing over \$8.9 million in debit cards to over 10,000 eligible agricultural workers (including dairy) and approximately 4800 meatpackers throughout the state.

“We applaud USDA for appropriating direct relief payments for eligible frontline farmworkers, meatpackers, and grocery workers to help defray costs associated with previous or on-going purchases of personal protective equipment and other expenses incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic such as testing, quarantining, vaccinations, childcare costs and other reasonable and necessary personal, family and or living expenses,” says Lupe Martinez, president, and Chief Executive Officer, UMOs. Farm workers, meatpackers, and grocery workers were classified by the federal government as “essential workers” during the height of the pandemic.

UMOS will deliver services directly in Wisconsin, Illinois, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas. UMOs plans to partner with other non-profit organizations in Florida, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Indiana, and Nebraska to identify eligible workers and assist with the application process. Any farm worker or meatpacker, who earned at least \$1.00 in agricultural work, has proper documentation, and proof of identification can apply.

UMOS and its partners will outreach to farm workers and meatpacking workers and their employers, accept and process applications, collect verification, determine eligibility, and issue payments. UMOs will maintain strong financial controls to ensure funds get into the hands of eligible workers and will use an elaborate data base system to avoid payment duplication for those who migrant and work throughout several states.

“We are especially happy to see frontline agricultural workers recognized for their contributions to the nation’s workforce and the food supply chain. Oftentimes they are overlooked in federal agricultural relief efforts,” Martinez concluded.

For more information on the Farm and Food Workers Relief Program and eligibility requirements call UMOs at 833-758-2004.

UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improves the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities for under-served populations.