

A close-up photograph of a blueberry bush with clusters of ripe, blue berries and green leaves. The background is softly blurred, creating a bokeh effect.

Oregon Human Development Corporation **Annual Report 2022**

OHDC

OREGON
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Letter from the Executive Director



Navigating the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and our 43rd year as an organization has brought new organizational structures, programs, staff, and opportunities to serve farmworkers at Oregon Human Development Corporation.

We have been busier than ever, in particular with our housing assistance programs, as the pandemic highlighted the systemic inequities and lack of access to essential services many of Oregon's 174,000 farmworkers and their family members face.

In response to the pandemic, we've organized dozens of COVID-19 vaccine clinics this year, protecting some of the state's most COVID-vulnerable communities. We also directly assisted over 1,000 people apply for the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program and did outreach to many more, helping spread the word to the more than 18,000 Latinx families who applied.

OHDC has also made many internal changes this year, with almost all our locations hiring new staff, and creating new roles and departments at the organization to support the work of our frontline staff in the next phase of our growth.

As we look to the next program year, we are grateful farmworkers trust us to serve them and thankful for the trust our funders and supporters place in us to support some of the state's most essential workers. We look forward to creating more opportunities for farmworkers to thrive.

Martin Campos-Davis

Executive Director, Oregon Human Development Corporation

Overview of OHDC and Oregon Farmworkers

Our mission: promoting the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of farmworkers and other underserved communities.

Oregon Human Development Corporation is a farmworker-serving non-profit and the state's only culturally specific community action agency. We provide job training, housing assistance, and other resources across eleven mostly rural locations in Oregon and one in Nevada.

Our staff members are rooted in their communities, and a majority are former farmworkers or children of farmworkers. They know how to connect with and support farmworkers, and consistently invest the time and effort to earn farmworkers' trust.

Our job training program provides farmworkers with the classes, trainings, on-the-job experiences, and support with the job search to discover higher-paying, more stable careers in new industries or move up within agriculture. We also run a scholarship program for young farmworkers or dependents of farmworkers to apply for and finance their college education.

Our housing assistance programs support farmworkers with rental and utility assistance, emergency shelter, other household costs, and more, and have been critical to Oregon's farmworker families during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also run a weatherization program in two counties, and provide various other programs throughout the year.

174,000

farmworkers and their family members in Oregon

\$20,000 - \$25,000

average yearly income of farmworkers nationwide

67%

percentage of Oregon farmworkers who reported a dramatic loss of work/income during pandemic

Impact in Numbers

July 2021 - June 2022

\$875,000

amount distributed
in rental assistance

2,617

family members
supported by housing
assistance programs

303

farmworkers
receiving job training
services

\$5,000

average amount
distributed to
scholarship recipients

26

COVID-19
vaccine clinics

1,087

farmworkers trained in
heat illness prevention

Top 4 Counties Where We Supported Farmworkers



- Marion
- Hood River
- Umatilla
- Malheur

Job Training

Omar started harvesting strawberries, blackberries, and cherries alongside his parents at age 12. He then spent many years powering Oregon's top agricultural commodity, nursery crops, growing outdoor shrubs and trees, houseplants, and poinsettias. Omar had even earned an associate's degree in horticulture and applied science, but the unstable nature of agriculture made it challenging to find steady work.



In 2021, he made a career change and began working as a bus driver for a local school district. He dreamed of earning a commercial driver's license (CDL), but the cost was a barrier.

Omar learned Oregon Human Development Corporation's National Farmworker Jobs Program could cover the cost, and he soon completed the 160-hour class and earned his CDL.

Omar now drives trucks and trailers for a distribution company, earns \$25 an hour and is grateful to constantly learn new skills.

"Thank you, OHDC and all of its staff for helping communities succeed and making it possible to make dreams come true," Omar said.

Top 3 Industries Participants Work In:

- Education
- Production
- Transportation

Funds for the National Farmworker Jobs Program provided by the Department of Labor. OHDC and its programs are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Scholarships for Farmworker Youth

Jacqueline grew up in the Columbia Gorge and saw her parents work long hours in the area's orchards and fields.

In high school, Jacqueline also began working in a packing house during the summer, sorting cherries on a conveyor belt for ten hours a day, seven days a week.

As she prepared for college her senior year, her friends mentioned Oregon Human Development Corporation and the impact of our National Farmworker Jobs Program.

Our workforce consultants enrolled her in a job readiness class and shared guidance on applying for scholarships, which prepared her for interviews and resume writing and helped her secure several scholarships.

In her first year of college in Texas, Jacqueline discovered she was passionate about teaching and is pursuing an education degree, with tuition assistance from Oregon Human Development Corporation.

Jacqueline shared that Oregon Human Development Corporation helped make her transition to college as smooth as possible and has been an essential part of her educational journey: "Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to pursue my dreams."



Housing Assistance

During the pandemic, Fidelfa became her family's sole source of income as her husband was unable to support them. Her minimum-wage job harvesting and sorting pears in southern Oregon was not enough to pay rent and other bills for her and her three children. Even when she suffered an injury, she had to continue working.



Oregon Human Development Corporation was able to support Fidelfa with five months of rent, and provide job training for her oldest child, who had recently graduated high school. Her son dreams of owning his own trucking business, and OHDC provided job readiness courses, enrolled him in a commercial driver's license class, and supported his family with food and household necessities while he completed the trainings.

"I want to thank OHDC and all of the staff for working to help provide assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Medford, Oregon, is very grateful to have an office where we feel welcomed and [where our problems are understood]," Fidelfa said. "Once again, thank you for helping my family and me through the obstacles farmworkers often face."

We'd like to recognize Oregon Housing and Community Services for prioritizing farmworkers and supporting OHDC during the pandemic.

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Weatherization

Oregon Human Development Corporation's weatherization program helps low-income households in Klamath and Lake County reduce their energy costs by making home repairs, updating heating and cooling systems, and completing other updates to increase energy efficiency.

Carmen is part of a farmworker family in Klamath Falls whose home was constantly cold. During the comprehensive weatherization assessment process, OHDC's team discovered her floors needed insulation and that excessive ventilation let in too much air and left the family continuously trying to heat cold floors.

After OHDC's weatherization team replaced the insulation and doors in her home, the heater turns on less, saving her money on her heating bill that she can direct toward other expenses.

"We have been a lot more comfortable in our home," Carmen said. "I am really happy with the work that was done."

30

homes weatherized

8

new roof systems installed

23

homes receiving indoor air quality mitigation

20

homes with new floor insulation

Statewide Collaboration

Six of our locations have organized community vaccine clinics since the beginning of 2022, often doubling as resource events for farmworkers. These events drew in well over 2,500 people, and 675 people were vaccinated at these clinics.

Four OHDC staff members helped 347 people apply for assistance from the Oregon Worker Relief Fund, a resource that supports undocumented Oregonians who were not eligible for stimulus checks or unemployment insurance.

Two staff members organized forums in the Willamette Valley for survivors of the 2020 Labor Day Fires to offer their input on how the state should spend disaster relief funds.



THANK YOU

We are grateful for the support of our funders, including the Department of Labor, Oregon Housing and Community Services, the Oregon Health Authority, and others, and for community support.

If you'd like to support farmworker families striving for brighter futures, visit www.ohdc.org/give-today

