

MEDIA ADVISORY

For scheduling purposes only

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PUBLIC HEARING

Each year the **Wisconsin Council on Migrant Labor**, a legislative statutory council, holds its annual public hearing. **The hearing will take place:**

When: Sunday, August 6, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Place: UMOS Aurora Housing Center
N1501 County Trunk XX
Berlin, WI 54923**

The Council is comprised of both republican and democratic legislators, The Department of Workforce Development, Job Service and other state government agencies, migrant farmworker advocacy organizations, agricultural employers and private citizens.

The purpose of the public hearing is to take testimony from the migrant farmworkers that travel from other states to work in Wisconsin, as well as from agricultural industry employers, advocacy agencies, the general public, health organizations, and others with an interest in the state's agricultural workforce.

After the public hearing, the Council members will take a tour of the UMOS Aurora Housing Center and the UMOS Migrant Head Start facility.

Every year 3,000 to 4,000 individuals and families migrate to Wisconsin to supplement the agricultural workforce, food processing, meat packing, tobacco, lawn care, and other industries, including dairy. "Agricultural workers are vital to Wisconsin's workforce and the state's economy," says Lupe Martinez, President and CEO, UMOS, and interim chairman of the Wisconsin Migrant Labor Council.

The public hearing will take place on the same day and location as the **UMOS Annual Farmworker Appreciation Day Event**. Two-hundred to three-hundred farmworker families are expected to attend from noon until 5:00 p.m. Free health check-ups, informational booths, food, children's activities and music will be provided.

Crops harvested by migrant farmworkers include apples, cabbage, carrots, cherries, corn, cucumbers, onions, peppers, and potatoes.

UMOS operates the statewide, federally funded National Farmworker Jobs Program. "The purpose of the program is to enable agricultural workers to help themselves improve their economic wellbeing, their education, their skills, their health, and housing so they may better realize their potential," says Martinez.

For more information on the UMOS Farmworker Appreciation Day Event, call Aida Bise at 920-232-9611, ext. 4102.

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.