

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UMOS AWARDED \$3 MILLION GRANT**

UMOS, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been awarded a \$3.1 million each year for 5 years Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Grant by the Department of Health Services, Office of Head Start, in Washington, D.C. The program will be operated in Arkansas and Missouri.

“UMOS will operate the program in Craighead, Greene Mississippi and Poinsetta Counties in Arkansas,” states Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer, UMOS. “We will also be able to expand our current Missouri operations into the counties of Dunklin and Pemiscott.”

UMOS will provide its full range of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start services including early childhood development and education, health, dental, mental health, nutrition, family engagement and parental involvement services.

“We will need to hire 85-90 additional teaching, food service, transportation and administrative staff,” says Jose Martinez, Vice President, Farmworker and Community Based Services, UMOS.

Crops harvested in Arkansas and Missouri by migrant and seasonal farmworkers include watermelons, cantaloupe, cotton, potatoes, pumpkins and rice.

“Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are the backbone of our nation’s agricultural workforce and we are thrilled to be able to offer our quality child development programs in these new areas,” Lupe Martinez concluded.

UMOS will serve 206 children annually through the Migrant Head Start and Migrant Early Head Start Programs.

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