



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UMOS TO BE AWARDED OVER \$25 MILLION TEXAS CONTRACT**

UMOS, headquartered in Milwaukee, received a Notice of Award from the US Department of Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start to operate the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program in the Texas Rio Grande Valley region. The initial funding award of \$778,613 covers the start-up period of November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. UMOs expects to receive subsequent Notices of Award totaling \$25,424,348 per year to operate the program for the next 5 years. The combined contract period will be from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025.

“Patience is a virtue,” commented Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer, UMOs. “We have patiently waited over 25 years for the opportunity to operate the program in Texas.”

The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program is a school readiness program that provides education, health, dental, mental health, transition supports, parental empowerment training and other services that meet the needs of farmworker families.

UMOS is funded to serve 1,883 children and pregnant women of migrant and seasonal farmworker families through 20 centers located in 5 counties: Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties. One regional office will be opened in Donna, Texas. UMOs plans to hire up to 638 employees.

Migrant and seasonal farmworker families are among the most vulnerable populations in the country, characterized by extreme poverty, language barriers and housing instability. “We are excited about the opportunity to bring our 28 years of experience in providing Migrant and Seasonal Head Start services and 55 years of overall experience in serving migrant farmworker families to the Texas Rio Grande Valley region,” says Martinez.

UMOS, with its network of community partners, will implement a comprehensive birth to school entry program model that has been successful in other states. UMOs operates Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs in Arkansas, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

For more information call 1-956-973-9216 or 877-413-8667. For employment opportunities go to <https://www.umos.org/career-opportunities/>

*UMOS is a performance-based, data-driven, customer focused non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improve the employment, educational, health, and housing opportunities of underserved populations.*