Staying ahead of the curve
Dear Strategic Partners, Supporters, and Friends:

Life can sometimes throw you a curve. To stay ahead of the curve in business you need a devoted board of directors, and a dedicated and driven staff with strategic foresight. UMOS is fortunate to have both.

Fiscal year 2022-2023 was a good year for UMOS. Grant revenues from secured contracts grew by 14% in 2022 to a projected 2023 revenues of $77 million.

Our service territory grew as well. With the addition of a two-year, $56.9 million USDA Farm and Food Workers Relief grant, UMOS will provide Covid-19 relief funding to 75,000 farm workers and meat packers in thirteen states.

In Wisconsin, UMOS is partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development on a $3 million grant to provide assistance to low paid workers, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals living in rural areas, including migrant and seasonal farm workers, in navigating the state’s unemployment insurance system.

Although 98% of our funding is from government contracts, the UMOS Latina Resource Center, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and other multi-disciplinary partners, was awarded a three-year, $5.1 million grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to prevent, disrupt and address labor trafficking in the state.

UMOS will continue to plan strategically and implement efficiently and effectively to remain a performance-based, data driven non-profit corporation. UMOS will continue to focus on “staying ahead of the curve.”

For more information on UMOS and our programs and services, go to [www.umos.org](http://www.umos.org)
Child Development Division

BELIEVING IN THE VALUE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

UMOS Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS), with Early Head Start (MEHS), provide childcare services to families who are engaged in agricultural labor to ensure that young children are not with their parents in the fields.

The UMOS Child Development Division experienced tremendous growth over the past four years. Grant funding increased from $9,694,711 to $38,686,505, an increase of approximately 299.04%. Child enrollment increased from 300 to 1,793 children, an increase of approximately 497.67%.

UMOS currently operates Migrant and Seasonal Head Start in Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin.
Migrant and seasonal head start/early head start

GETTING A GREAT START

MSHS/MEHS program supports the continued development of Spanish language skills along with the acquisition of English. The overarching goal of the program is to enhance the school readiness of migrant and seasonal farm worker children. Our program is comprehensive in scope, with a strong emphasis on the health and well-being of children. Our child development program seeks to maximize parental involvement in their child’s education, and participation in program decision making so their child gets off to a great start in the public school system.

Moving past the pandemic

UMOS staff, families, and children are moving past the pandemic by putting the impacts of Covid-19 behind us. UMOS staff worked hard in reconnecting children and families to the comprehensive in-person services they deserve. Although there were continued challenges, 100% of enrolled children received full in-person services.

Program Highlights
- Returned to onsite home visits, parent meetings and activities
- Removed cohorts
- Removed Covid-19 plexiglass barriers
- Returned to full seating capacity on bus routes
- Returned to normal child activities
- Retained Hybrid training
- Removed outside mask requirements
- Returned to family style meal settings
- Reinstituted field trips

The UMOS Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs offer access to medical, dental, nutritional services, mental health services, and other community resources. Services are offered at varying locations throughout the agricultural season. We currently operate 33 locations across multiple states: Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin.

For more information: 956-465-4773
Additional program information can be found in the addendum section in the annual report.
Education and engagement community and commitment

Two-way teacher and parent communication can lead to greater parental involvement and improved student engagement and academic achievement. UMOS staff work hard to build and foster family relationships and engagements. Family engagement allows UMOS staff to build parental relationships that support the family’s well-being and participation in their child’s early care and educational experiences.

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities as well which serves to equip and empower all family members to develop knowledge and skills to help foster positive individual and family development.

UMOS staff understand that the commitment of the entire community with the entire family in the education of children is vital to a child’s academic and lifelong success.

Program Highlights
• Children and families from Donna and Alamo Center, Texas, participated in Miranos Pilot Study (Healthy Habits for Life Program)
• Parents participated in “Hope’s Mobile Farmers Market” (Farmer Mentoring Program)
• Hosted first “Honoring Harvesting Hands” Appreciation Event for Texas migrant and seasonal farm worker families

Setting a good example

Families are offered educational opportunities which serve to equip and empower family members to develop knowledge and skills that help foster positive individual and family development so families can become self-sufficient and eventually leave the migrant stream.

Parents from the UMOS Beaver Dam Housing Center in Wisconsin set an example for their kids by obtaining their GED from Madison Area Technical College.

Funding source: US Department of Health and Human Services (OHS) within the Administration for Children and Families

For more information 956-465-4773.

Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.
The UMOS Workforce Development Division is housed within the UMOS Job Center. The Job Center is an integral component of the UMOS Center with workforce development programs and wrap-around services that help clients attain and maintain self-sufficiency.

The Workforce Development Division is comprised of the following programs:

- Wisconsin Works (W-2)
- Transform Milwaukee Jobs Program
- Transitional Jobs Program
- H-1B One Workforce-TechStars
- National Farmworker Jobs Program
- Adult Basic Education (GED, HSED)
- Food Pantry
Human Highlight

JOHN BRESSLER

John Bressler supported a family of four working on his chicken farm in Rocky Comfort, Missouri. John’s strenuous work on the farm required long hours of feeding, cleaning pens, and gathering eggs, with help from a few farm worker employees.

Through contracted labor with a Missouri food company, John’s business was a reliable supplier of quality eggs for grocery stores. When the food company made the decision to terminate John’s contract, the chicken farm was forced to close. John was struggling to support his family and was dependent on public assistance during this difficult time.

During a visit to his local job service center in Joplin, John learned of the UMOS National Farmworker Jobs Program. He inquired about career and training opportunities.

John was interested in obtaining a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) to start a career in the profitable trucking industry. Unfortunately, John did not have the resources needed to cover tuition or maintain daily minimal living needs while in training.

After a UMOS Case Manager conducted an eligibility assessment, an employment development plan was completed. John was approved to receive $5,000 for tuition in addition to a stipend of $580 for the four-week training at Truck Dynasty Driving Academy.

John graduated and successfully secured employment the same day. His wages were calculated per truckload averaging $30 an hour. After accepting a new job with Hot Shot Trucking LLC in Wichita Falls, Texas, John now has a consistent freight base income with benefits.

Congratulations to John Bressler for his commitment, determination, and success!

Comprehensive Crisis Relief Program

AVOIDING PANIC DURING A CRISIS

The Comprehensive Crisis Relief (CCR) Program Grant helps Wisconsin Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) families avoid panic during a crisis or an emergency situation. The grant assists MSFWs with emergency needs such as food, lodging, and gas/fuel. Eligible MSFWs and their families at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level and who have emergency needs may receive assistance from the CCR program once per year. This helps to keep workers, working, and families fed.

Program Highlights

• Assisted more than 1,165 households during emergency situations.
• Over 701 households received vouchers for food to feed their children and families.
• Over 150 migrant and seasonal farmworkers received vouchers for lodging.

Funding Source: Wisconsin Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)/Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
For more information: 414-389-6850
Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.

Program Highlights

Illinois:
• Participants served - 271
• Participants receiving training services - 129
• Participants obtaining unsubsidized employment - 55

Wisconsin:
• Participants served - 156
• Participants receiving training services - 48
• Participants obtaining unsubsidized employment - 31

Missouri
• Participants served - 243
• Participants receiving training services - 88
• Participants obtaining unsubsidized employment - 72

UMOS operates the National Farmworker Jobs Program state-wide in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri.
H-1B One Workforce-Techstars
SHAPE SHINNING STARS FOR THE WORKPLACE

The H-1B One WorkForce-TechStars project is in its second year of implementation, providing accelerated technology-based training in various industries to meet the needs of Wisconsin employers and residents. The goal is to provide quality rigorous training for 400 of today's technology stars to help meet the skills needed for today's in-demand workplace occupations.

Program Highlights
Enrolled 380 participants to date in the following classes:

- Computer Numerical Control - 7
- Web Development - 28
- Cyber Security - 70
- icStars - 77
- Medical Coding - 198
- 135 participants graduated
- 53 obtained employment with starting wages between $12/hr - $32.69/hr

UMOS staff focused on:
- Providing virtual, face to face and hybrid (blended) training
- Providing coaching support
- Providing wrap-around employment support services
- Providing employer/agency (stakeholder) meetings for immediate feedback and program improvement
- Providing access to UMOS Technology Center for internet, computer access and instructional support

The program focused on:
- Wisconsin Residents
- Employers H-1B
- Best Practices Models
- Partnerships

Funding source: US Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration. For more information 414-389-6000.
Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.

Transitional Jobs/Transform Milwaukee Jobs Program
TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

Transform Milwaukee Jobs Program/Transitional Jobs Program are limited - term subsidized work programs that assist employers in filling job openings.

The Transitional Jobs Program (TJ) is part of the Rural Poverty Initiative to address challenges of rural communities by increasing access to social services and job placements. The program is implemented in several regions throughout Wisconsin.

The Transform Milwaukee Jobs Program (TMJ) offers employment opportunities to hard to place and low-income adults in Milwaukee County. Collectively, in the rural and urban regions where UMOS implements the TJ/ TMJ programs, 48%-64% of the participants were males, 29%-56% were non-custodial parents, and 66%-73% were ex-offenders with child support orders.

Program Highlights
- 82 participants started TMJ Subsidized Placement
- 54 participants in 60 days Subsidized Placement
- 59 Participants completed 1040 hours/started Unsubsidized Employment
- 59 participants completed 60 days of Unsubsidized Retention
- 39% of participants in Unsubsidized Employment earned at least $10.00 per hour
- 49% of participants in Unsubsidized Employment earned at least $13.00 per hour or higher

Funding source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. For more information 414-389-6600.

“...I had no idea that a program like this existed.”
Juana Ramirez, employer.
Delicious Pastries by Juana.

Human Highlights

Latasha McClendon was assigned to work at a local shelter. She was new to the area after leaving an abusive relationship. She demonstrated a positive attitude and initiative that made her stand out. Her hard work turned into a full-time position and a promotion to site supervisor for the shelter’s clothing department.

Angel expressed interest in real estate. UMOS staff created a program and program site for him to work and learn about being a realtor. Angle completed the program. He is now learning how to buy and sell houses and is looking to start his own business.
Wrap around Services

FOOD PANTRY

The UMOS Food Pantry continued to meet the temporary food insecurity issues within the community. UMOS is one of several food pantries designated to serve individuals and families within specific zip codes on the south side of Milwaukee.

Each family can receive boxes of up to 155 pounds of food; individuals receive up to 115 pounds once every 30 days. Each box contains breakfast, lunch, and dinner items, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

Because of the loss of Covid-19 Food Share benefits, the number of clients coming to the food pantry increased from 25 to 50 per day. Thanks to Nicolet High School, who donated 11,000 pounds of food, and other community minded individuals, and corporate donors, UMOS was able to meet the increased demand.

Program Highlights

- 1,224 participants were served
- 359 participants secured employment
- 64% of participants remained on the job at least 90 days
- 22% of participants remained on the job at least 6-months
- 26% of participants earned $16.40/hr

Additional Highlights

- Provided Refugee Cash Assistance to 181 individuals
- UMOS’ Child Support Liaison provided referrals for 147 non-custodial parents to services aimed at reducing barriers to work, including legal services, parenting workshops, job readiness, GED, job skills/employment training programs
- New Employment Service team was added to focus on job readiness, job skills trainings, work experience, and job placement/retention
- UMOS was recognized as the Milwaukee agency with the highest percentage of job retentions

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

The UMOS Education Department provides instructional classes and GED tests to individuals with diverse backgrounds.

The UMOS Pearson Vue GED Test Center is one of 129 test centers in Wisconsin.

Classes transitioned from in-person to virtual education during the pandemic gaining strength in innovating education delivery and competency.

The goal of the UMOS Education Department continues to be to help every adult student succeed.

Program Highlights

- GED test administered - 167
- Professional tests - 398
- Total test delivered - 565

Funding/Donor Sources: Feeding America, Nicolet High School, Target (Chase), National Bakery, Target (Franklin), Community Donations, Walmart (27th E. Oklahoma), Ebenezer, Walmart (Franklin), Menards, Walmart (Hwy 100), Breadsmith, Sam’s club (Franklin), Pepperidge Farm, Klements, Meijer (Greenfield), St John Paul, Basilica of St. Joseph Catholic Church, LULAC, UMOS Staff

For more information 414-389-6600.
Social Services Division

The UMOS Social Services Division experienced the largest growth of the three major program divisions. Two new program grants were added: USDA Farm and Food Workers Relief Program and the Unemployment Insurance Navigator Grant.

These two programs joined eight other programs under the social services umbrella. The social services division consists of the UMOS Latina Resource Center’s Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking programs and supportive services, Health Promotions’ Harm Reduction and Tobacco Prevention Programs, Farm Labor Housing, Community Services Block Grant/ Community Crisis Relief and Energy Assistance.
Program Highlights

• To assist 75,000 farm workers and meatpackers in thirteen states

• To support those workers who could not "work from home" but were critical components to maintaining the nation’s food supply chain during the Covid-19 pandemic

• To provide financial assistance to eligible frontline farm workers and meatpackers to help defray costs associated with previous or on-going purchases of personal protective equipment

• To provide financial assistance to eligible frontline farm workers and meatpackers who incurred costs for Covid-19 related testing, quarantining, vaccinations, childcare costs and other reasonable and necessary personal, family and or living expenses.

• To maintain strong financial controls with an elaborate data base system to help ensure funds get into the hands of eligible workers

Unemployment Insurance Navigator Program

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

UMOS Unemployment Insurance (UI) Navigator Program is one of UMOS’ newest programs under the Social Services Division. UMOS, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), received a $3 million federal grant to improve equitable access for those who face barriers in applying for UI benefits, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals living in rural and urban areas.

The Unemployment Insurance system is intended to provide benefits that are critical lifelines for working-class families. Unfortunately, for many workers the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated delays and lack of access to unemployment insurance benefits, especially in historically underserved communities.

UMOS intends to address the Spanish language needs among the migrant and seasonal farmworker population by employing staff that represent the individuals being served which helps to foster trust and understanding of complex social programs and systems.

Program Highlights

• To provide temporary support to workers who experience a job loss through no fault of their own

• To utilize proven practices including hiring bilingual and multicultural staff

• To enhance communication, and assist in the navigation of the Wisconsin unemployment insurance application process

• To educate individuals on other social services safety net programs and other resources that may help individuals and families during challenging times

• Disseminated educational and informational materials to over 4,000 individuals through outreach, local events, social media, and coalition meetings

Funding source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
For more information 1-833-758-0612 or ffwr@umos.org
Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.
UMOS Latina Resource Center

ADVOCATING FOR VICTIMS. SUPPORTING SURVIVORS.

The UMOS Latina Resource Center is comprehensively unique. The Center provided safety, wellness, and empowerment to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking through culturally and linguistically specific supportive services and community education programs.

Program Highlights

**Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Community Education**
- Provided advocacy and/or supportive services to 225 victims of sexually assault
- Provided advocacy and/or supportive services to 658 victims of domestic violence
- Responded to 225 crisis calls from victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, hospitals, and law enforcement
- Filed 90 Temporary Restraining Orders
- Provided secured housing for 28 families secured through the Living in Peace Transitional Housing Program

**Human Trafficking**
- Provided 617 children with social, emotional support and education through the Mi Arco Iris Children Who Witness Domestic Violence Program
- Assisted 467 middle school youth complete Raices Healthy Youth Initiative & Safe Dates; Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program
- Provided 600 middle and high school Latino youth information on identifying abusive behaviors and healthy relationships through community outreach and school presentations
- Reached over 6000 individuals through domestic violence, dating violence & sexual assault outreach activities, community presentations and social media

**Violence Prevention Program**
- Provided 617 children with social, emotional support and education through the Mi Arco Iris Children Who Witness Domestic Violence Program
- Trained 300 law-enforcement, social workers, medical providers, youth workers and other professionals on human trafficking
- Screened 338 potential victims of labor and/or sex trafficking
- Provided 144 victims of human trafficking were with comprehensive advocacy, supportive services, and resources through the UMOS Wisconsin Regional Anti-Trafficking Program (WRAP)

**Labor Trafficking Survivor**

Oscar, a thirty-year-old man from Honduras learned about an employment opportunity in the US through the Department of Labor H2-B program. He accepted employment at a landscaping business in Wisconsin. The landscaping business promised Oscar an hourly wage of $18/per hour, plus all meals and lodging to be provided. When he arrived in the US, he was forced to work at a county fairground. This is not what Oscar had agreed to do. Additionally, his supervisor yelled, intimidated, and threatened him with deportation whenever he would complain about his working conditions, poor living arrangements and wages owed, Oscar felt unsafe, but he had no choice but to continue working until his VISA expired.

Oscar and some of his co-workers contacted the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) who in turn referred him to the UMOS WRAP Anti-Human Trafficking Program. UMOS Anti-Human Trafficking advocates assisted with the safe recovery of Oscar and some of his co-workers. He was given keys to emergency lodging, food, as well as legal representation and resources. Oscar’s situation was reported as a labor trafficking situation to the US Department of Labor-Office of Inspector General.

Oscar is cooperating in the prosecution of the trafficker, was granted his V-Visa, has a fulltime job, and has a goal of enrolling in school.

Funding sources:
- End Abuse, Wisconsin
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
- U.S. Department of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women Transitional Housing Program
- U.S. Department of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women Culturally Specific Grants
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-Office on Trafficking in Persons
- U.S. Department of Justice-Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking-Sub-grantee.
- Wisconsin Department of Children & Families
- Wisconsin Department of Justice-Sexual Assault Victim Services
- Wisconsin Department of Justice-Victims of Crime Act
- For more information 414-389-6500.

Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.
Health Promotions Harm Reduction
PROMOTING HEALTH. REDUCING HARM.

The UMOS Health Promotions Program strives to promote and improve the use of evidence-based approaches to prevention, intervention, and treatment referrals. UMOS provides rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, syringe exchange services, condom distribution, NARCAN/Fentanyl testing strips training and distribution, wound care, HIV/Hep C/STI education, overdose prevention, and treatment referral options.

Program Highlights
- Provided Rapid Hepatitis C testing for 70 high-risk individuals
- Provided Rapid HIV testing to 230 high-risk individuals, exceeding our annual objective by 50%
- Distributed 69,710 clean syringes to community members and collected 68,599 used syringes through client collection, street clean-up and other measures, helping prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases via contaminated syringes
- Secured $14,000 in funding from the West Allis Health Department to create a public awareness campaign
- Disseminated 1,748 single-doses of Nasal NARCAN®
- Distributed 1019 Fentanyl testing strips
- Provided over 100 trainings, in English and Spanish, on the proper administration of NARCAN®
- Referred 41 clients that used drugs into a treatment facility of their choice
- Distributed 24,325 safer sex kits
- Provided Harm Reduction outreach to over 6,000 community members.
- Distributed approximately 1,000 harm reduction kits
- Secured $89,319 from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant opportunity-Supporting Drug User Health through existing Syringe Service Providers
- Collected 68,599 used syringes to community members and collected 68,599 used syringes through client collection, street clean-up and other measures, helping prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases via contaminated syringes
- Secured $14,000 in funding from the West Allis Health Department to create a public awareness campaign
- Disseminated 1,748 single-doses of Nasal NARCAN®
- Distributed 1019 Fentanyl testing strips
- Provided over 100 trainings, in English and Spanish, on the proper administration of NARCAN®
- Referred 41 clients that used drugs into a treatment facility of their choice
- Distributed 24,325 safer sex kits
- Provided Harm Reduction outreach to over 6,000 community members.
- Distributed approximately 1,000 harm reduction kits
- Secured $89,319 from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant opportunity-Supporting Drug User Health through existing Syringe Service Providers
- Collected 68,599 used syringes

Health Promotions Tobacco Prevention
ADVOCATING FOR SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS

UMOS houses the Wisconsin Hispanic/Latinx Tobacco Prevention Network (WHLTPN). This network serves as a public health advocate for the Hispanic/Latinx community by addressing health equity and disparities relating to commercial tobacco and vaping products.

Program Highlights
- Disseminated educational and informational materials to over 6,000 individuals through outreach, local events, social media, and coalition meetings.
- Distributed bilingual information to over 4,000 Quit Line and Medicaid/BadgerCare participants and provided free covered medication cards at area health fairs.
- Held four coalition meetings to inform and educate community members with the latest updates from the State of Wisconsin on commercial tobacco and vaping products.
- Held nine FACT group meetings to plan activities, educate youth and school officials about death, diseases and other impacts on youth caused by tobacco and vaping use.
- Hosted six educational sessions with state/local legislators and community leaders on the dangers of commercial tobacco and vaping products, including second and third hand smoke.

UMOS Supports the Wisconsin Hispanic/Latinx Tobacco Prevention Network (WHLTPN), as well as local and state leaders, grassroots organizations, local businesses, community organizations, supporters, and volunteers to address the harmful health impacts of commercial tobacco in the Hispanic/Latinx community.

Funding source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services- Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

For more information: 414-389-6501.

Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.
UMOS helps customers in Milwaukee County and Kenosha County stay connected to their utility to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. UMOS staff, through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) helps residents stay connected with their local utility even when individuals and families might be struggling to pay their energy bills. UMOS staff assists in facilitating client payment plans as a proactive approach versus a reactive approach to keep customers connected. UMOS staff in Milwaukee and Kenosha County provide qualified applicants with crisis assistance which includes furnace repair or replacement if someone is facing a no-heat situation during the cold Wisconsin winter season. Eligible applicants also have access to services to weatherize their homes, thus helping to save energy and keep costs down year-round.

In addition, UMOS staff coordinated with the Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency to assist clients in applying for Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) to be able to stay in their homes.

Program Highlights

- Processed 4,364 paid applications for Kenosha County clients
- Hosted multi-agency community resources event in Kenosha with 37 community resource booths
- Provided services in Milwaukee County to 12,335 households with Public Benefits (Electric benefits)
- Provided assistance to 11,984 households with LIHEAP (Heat benefits)
- Processed 2,100 crisis cases to help customers avoid disconnection
- Assisted with 200 furnace repairs & replacements
- Coordinated outreach efforts through participation in 35 community events, festivals, job fairs, and sporting events
- Conducted outreach visits to 46 Senior Sites
- Celebrated Weatherization Day with outreach efforts, weatherization kits, lightbulb giveaways

Program Highlights

- Provided temporary rental housing to more than 292 individual farmworkers and 85 families in Wisconsin and Minnesota
- Provided permanent, safe, decent, affordable year-round rental housing to more than 261 individual farmworkers and 65 families
- Assisted non-profit developers renovate and build 36-units of farm labor housing in Wisconsin
- Continued to work with Three Rivers Development to renovate or construct 101-units of farm labor housing in rural Minnesota
- Provided Rent Smart seminars to 164 participants
- Provided Home Ownership training to 94 participants

Funding source: US Department of Labor - 367 Farmworker Program and USDA Rural Housing Development.

Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.

Funding source: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Public Benefit (funded by utility companies), Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, State Of Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DECHR).

For more information 414-389-6600 Wisconsin, WI.

For more information 262-657-2170 Kenosha County, WI.

Additional program information can be found in the addendum section of the annual report.

UMOS | Annual Report

2022 / 2023

Human Highlight

Sugey Galvan, a single mother with three children traveled to Wisconsin from Brownsville, Texas seeking seasonal work at a local food processing plant. She and her family initially stayed at the UMOS Aurora Migrant Temporary Housing Center for Kenosha County clients. Sugey expressed a desire to continue her education and obtain her GED. A UMOS caseworker referred her to the High School Equivalency Program (HEP/Migrant Education Program). Ms. Galvan later moved into the UMOS permanent apartment housing in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin where her permanent housing has stabilized her family and has given her the ability work and continue with her education.
CORPORATE & COMMUNITY EVENTS

2022 Back to School Fair
UMOS held its annual back to school fair once again as a drive-thru event. Over 2000 first through eighth grade students received backpacks filled with notebooks, loose leaf paper, folders, pencils, pens, highlighters, markers, crayons, pencil sharpeners, scissors, hand sanitizers, face masks, and other individualized sponsored items.

2022 Mexican Independence Day Festival
The UMOS Mexican Independence Day Festival and celebration in Milwaukee is the largest in the state.
Latinos are the fastest growing segment of the Milwaukee population, the largest originating from Mexico.
The festival took place on the UMOS Center grounds to celebrate Mexico's Independence Victory over Spain.
The festival was sponsored by El Conquistador Newspaper, Anthem, La Gran D/Bustos Media, Z-93FM, Martinez Entertainment, El Rey, Milwaukee County, Four Points Hotel/Sheraton, and Fiesta Garibaldi Restaurants

2022 Breakfast with Santa
Every child deserves a smile at Christmas. The annual event was conducted as a pick-up your gift and go drive through.
Over 3,000 gifts were given to children 1 year to 12 years of age from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning in December. Each child (and parent) also received a gift card from McDonald's for a free pancake breakfast.

2023 Interfaith Luncheon
UMOS regularly hosts luncheons to keep members of the Interfaith community, our partner agencies and community leaders informed about issues that are of importance to them and those we all serve. Wisconsin Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez was the guest speaker.

2022 Hispanic Awards Banquet
UMOS celebrated its 41st anniversary of the Hispanic Awards Banquet, virtually, in 2022. Award recipients included:

Hispanic Youth of the Year
Regina Rodriguez

Hispanic Woman of the Year
Celina Echeveste-Duket

Hispanic Man of the Year
Dr. Sergio M. Gonzales

Hispanic Family of the Year
Yolanda Hernandez, Nelson, and Zaydi Tejada
Board of Directors

Ben Obregon
Chair, Chair Executive Committee

Maria Watts
Vice Chair, Chair, Bylaws Committee, Member of Executive Committee

Julio Guix
Treasurer, Chair Finance Committee and CSBG Advisory Committee, Member of Executive Committee

Nedda Avila
Secretary, Chair, Personnel Committee, Member of Executive Committee

Marisela Galaviz
Parliamentarian, Chair, Planning & Evaluation and Nominating Committees, Member of Executive Committee

Silvia Perez
Member of Executive Committee

Joe Villmow
Member of Executive Committee

Jessica Jacqueline Gomez
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Policy Council President

Mercedes Garduño
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Policy Council Vice President

Kevin Magee
Pastor Juan Salinas

Earnie Hill
Jose Ruano

Michael “Mike” Milam
Cesar Sotelo
Maria Borda-Wiesner
Jose Carrillo

IN MEMORY OF FORMER BOARD CHAIR
Juan José Lopéz

Juan José Lopéz left a legacy in the Latino Community, and at UMOS. From running errands for UMOS board members as a teenager, to later joining the UMOS board and excelling to become chair, Juan served as board chair from 1992 to 1993, and again from 2011 to 2018.

“We will always cherish his courage, his leadership, and his laughter. He will forever be missed, but forever be remembered. He will forever live in the hearts of the UMOS family.”

Lupe Martinez,
President and Chief Executive Officer, UMOS

Expenditures

GRANT EXPENDITURES JANUARY 2022 / DECEMBER 2022

Child Education
$29,395,354

Employment and Training
$13,743,918

Community Based Programs
$3,651,234

Aids Programs
$69,034

Housing Projects
$797,071

Homeless/Shelter/ Food Programs
$736,357

Total Expenditures
$53,974,175

Support Services
$4,804,881

Non-Federal
$1,066,035

Total Supporting Services
$5,870,916

Total Grant Expenditures
$53,974,175

UMOS 32 YEAR REVENUE HISTORY AND PROJECTED FY 23
Addendum

Child Development Division

PURPOSE

UMOS Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Services provides childcare services to families who are engaged in agricultural labor to ensure that young children are not with their parents in the fields. UMOS prides itself in delivering high quality early care and education comprehensive services to pregnant mothers and children, 6 weeks of age to 5.11.

CENTERS OF CARE

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Services offers at varying locations through the mental health services, and other medical, dental, nutritional services, program decision making.

Our child development program seeks to maximize parental involvement in a child’s education and participation in program decision making.

Family input is also an integral piece of a child’s learning; therefore, staff collect family data, determine outcomes, and form individual goals linked to information provided by their family. Each family meets with their child’s teacher to discuss their child’s progress toward their own goals and to discuss their school readiness. UMOS staff understand that involving the entire family in the education of their children is vital to their child’s academic and lifelong success.

UMOS CHILD DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION GROWTH PAST FIVE YEARS

The Child Development Division has experienced tremendous growth over the past four years, and the recent increase in award amounts and services provided reflect the division’s growth.

The MHS grant funds increased from $9,694,711 to $38,686,505, an increase of approximately 299.04% (Graph 1). An increase in enrollment from 300 children to 1,793 children, was an approximate increase of 497.67% (Graph 2).

The Return to Full Enrollment

After the Pandemic

As family and staff confidence returns, so will full enrollment, with recruitment teams sweeping through the communities as families begin the back after travel and immigration bans forced some migrant families to lose their jobs. Expectations from the Office of Head Start is for grantees to reinstate pre-pandemic practices and have plans in place for a full enrollment beginning Fall 2023.

UMOS is the grantee operator of Migrant & Seasonal Head Start and Early Head Start (MHS AND MEHS) program which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). UMOS administers multiple MHS grants across different states: Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin. The MSHS and MEHS, Child Development Program deliver high quality comprehensive Head Start services to low-income families whose primary income is derived from agricultural work.

Through a center-based model, UMOS provides childhood development and education, health, dental, mental health, nutrition, family engagement, parent involvement and transportation services to children and their families. The MSHS/MEHS program serves children six weeks through five years of age for 8 to 12 hours daily.

To help meet the needs of families in the MSHS and MEHS in Wisconsin, Migrant Child Care supplemental funds are used to provide additional evening and weekend care. This additional childcare service allows parents to continue weekend agricultural work, while assured that their children are in a safe, nurturing, high-quality early childhood education environment rather than parents having to take their children to the fields are leaving them with an older underage sibling.

Head Start programs are required to ensure that at least 10% of enrollment slots are occupied by children with disabilities. UMOS serves 10% of its funded enrollment with children who have special needs. Family Service staff work to identify children with special developmental or physical needs, and when eligible, these children receive appropriate and timely services from UMOS MSHS/MEHS program.

An additional priority is identifying and enrolling MSHS eligible families who are homeless or face other unique challenges.

UMOS primarily serves low-income Hispanic families of migrant or seasonal farm workers who are 99% Spanish speakers, as such, building upon the child’s home language is critical part of their educational experiences. Children receiving MSHS or MEHS are introduced to English as the second language throughout the day. UMOS dual language program is based on learning and speaking in a child’s home language, providing cultural “home” experiences as an essential part of the classroom day. Our dual language program allows children the opportunity to develop deeper, stronger language roots which will benefit them across a lifespan.

Children will develop strong language and literacy skills in both their home language and English when the classroom supports the understanding of their home language.

"A child’s early years of language development are critical for the fundamentals of school readiness” (Perry, 2018).

UMOS provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that aim at enhancing the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of children enrolled in the Head Start program. UMOS enriches these Head Start services by collaborating with other programs in the community whose purpose is to help families move toward self-sufficiency. During each program year, children in the MSHS program receive a minimum of two home visits from qualified teaching staff and follow up home visits from qualified family service workers on a as needed basis.
The MSHS program is designed to prepare families to support their children’s learning, and to prepare children for success in school and for later learning in life. Our focus is to promote school readiness by enhancing the physical, social and cognitive development of children through the provision of nutrition, health, social, education, family engagement, and other services.

Nutrition, Health, Mental Health, and Dental Services

Children who access ongoing health care have better attendance and are more engaged in learning. Routine and ongoing health checkups can help children stay healthy. At UMOS we embrace ASCD’s whole child approach, “each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged (2022).

Health is the foundation of school readiness, “in its earliest years, lays the groundwork for a lifetime of well-being” (Harvard University, 2020).

Good nutrition is essential for children’s brain development. Children who have access to nutritious food have energy to learn. Additionally, children with healthy teeth are better able to eat, speak, and focus on learning. Staying healthy and active benefits young children’s physical and cognitive development.

Prior research reveals that children with an ongoing source of health and dental care are more successful in school and in life. Our nutrition service requirements conform to USDA requirements in 7CFR parts 210, 220, and 226. Our children are fed meals and snacks that are high in nutrients and low in fat, sugar, and salt.

Recognizing the impact that health has on school readiness, the early detection of children’s health problems remains a priority for UMOS. To help children thrive, UMOS staff ensure that children are up to date on immunizations and each respective state’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment schedule, learn health habits, and can access the care they need.

UMOS staff collaborate with community agencies to help families and children stay healthy throughout the program year. Family service staff ensure that all children enrolled in the MSHS programs receive timely and high-quality health, dental services, and mental wellness.

Program staff also work closely with children, families, and staff to secure mental wellness services from mental health consultants, health care providers, or other local community resources. Our mental health consultants work across all levels: child and familyfocused, classroom-oriented, consultation with program staff, and professional development needs of staff. During the 2022-2023 program year, professional development needs continued to focus on mental well-being, supporting staff through stress, trauma, and strategies to best support the mental health of children.

Dental health is important for overall physical health; not properly taking care of your teeth and gums can lead to a variety of health problems. Children with poor oral health may have a challenging time concentrating and learning because they are in pain, miss more days of school, and can develop other serious oral health conditions. Staff are trained to always promote effective oral hygiene by ensuring all children with teeth are assisted by appropriate staff in brushing their teeth with toothpaste containing fluoride.

During Program Year 2022 – 2023 approximately 83.4% of children were up to date on their physical exams. While it is our goal to ensure that all children are up to date on well child visits, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt healthcare.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated community mitigation efforts enacted have altered the delivery of and access to healthcare across the U.S. Emergency visits were down by an estimated 40% in many communities across the country, many in-person office visits have been changed to telehealth visits (HHS.GOV, 2021).

Children are slowly starting to lose fear of themselves and for themselves, and are starting to return to their scheduled health and dental visits.

Disabilities

One of the requirements for Head Start and Early Head Start programs is to ensure that at least 10% of enrollment slots are occupied by children with disabilities. UMOS requires that staff make every effort to include and provide services for children with disabilities.

UMOS implements several Child Find activities throughout the season and distributes recruitment flyers in the surrounding communities.

UMOS partners with local school districts, ECI, and other community supports to discuss referral and eligibility requirements for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Services. This process helps us ensure that we recruit children who are already identified as eligible for IDEA services prior to entering our program, and accurately screen and refer for evaluation for special education or related services. During the 2022 – 2023 Program Year, 436 children were referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility under IDEA, of which 209 were diagnosed with a disability under IDEA.

Transition

Children experience many transitions throughout life, starting with their first transition from home to early care, between age groups and program settings, and from early childcare setting to kindergarten. Supporting these transitions is important because change can be challenging. Staff work collaboratively with families to ensure smooth transition, starting with their first transition from the home to our MSHS location and through the final process, MSHS location to kindergarten. The process includes: (1) parent/teacher conferences and (2) home visits. This process also includes:

• Meeting with parents and discussing the MSHS environment/setting.
• Meeting with a guest kindergarten teacher.
• Information packets with school locations, enrollment dates, and open house.

Transition preparation materials and Child/ren field trips to a local kindergarten class.

It is important for teachers, family service workers, and families to know the importance of successful transitions. A poorly planned transition process can have implications for the child’s future outcomes. UMOS understands that a child’s transition process should not be a one-time event, but rather a process that starts from the time the child and family are enrolled in our program.

Children with Disabilities by Region

Referral Source

Table 1: Services at Program Year 2022 – 2023 Program Year, 436 children were referred for evaluation to determine eligibility under IDEA, of which 209 were diagnosed with a disability under IDEA.

The MSHS/MEHS promotes school readiness by focusing on the individual child, the involvement of the family and community to support best early child development. Our School Readiness considers a child’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. We focus on involving parents as their child’s first teacher, preparing children to be ready for school, and providing developmental screening and referrals to health and educational specialists. We work in cooperation with other community resources, such as Early Childhood Intervention programs, local school districts, and health services providers.

UMOS school readiness uses the Head Start Early Learning Framework (ELF) and state standards (Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin) to establish school readiness goals and to inform curriculum planning and implementation. Our school readiness goals are age-appropriate and have been established in the following domains:

• Approaches to Learning
• Social and Emotional Development
• Language and Literacy
• Cognition
• Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

To ensure that our program assesses children’s development and learning in the following areas, we have implemented the Creative Curriculum which is aligned with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELF). UMOS uses Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) for ongoing assessments, which are based on authentic observations, an observation of children engaging in activities in natural settings for a period of time at a childcare, preschool, or home in the one. One of the key strengths of the DRDP instrument is that observations are strongly focused on identifying strengths over deficits to help determine appropriate learning activities and to inform a program’s development and instruction. The instrument is used from early infancy to the start of kindergarten.

The DRDP assessment contains key features that consider dual language learners, have modifications for children with Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and the needs of the eight domains imbedded in the DRDP Assessment. Each DRDP domain contains various measures:

• Full Continuum Measures — are applicable for children from early infancy all the way to kindergarten
• Earlier Developmental Measures — are applicable for children from early infancy through early preschool
• Later Developmental Measures — are applicable for children from early preschool through kindergarten entry

Conditional Measures — are only applicable in certain circumstances, for example English language learners.

The distinct levels of the DRDP are organized into four categories and two to three sub-categories, resulting in five to nine developmental levels for each category. The four categories are Responding, Exploring, Building, and Integrating. The sub-categories are Earlier, Middle, and Later which are defined by qualitative differences in the complexity of child child’s learning and development as they progress along the continua. The levels are not defined using an age-normative perspective, rather it is a criterion-based approach.

Assessment information gained from using the DRDP is used to support planning next steps for children and families. The DRDP is then used to establish the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for children with special needs, and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for children with disabilities. UMOS teachers focus on five Continua for the first year, professional development needs of staff, or related services. During the 2022 – 2023 Program Year, 436 children were referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility under IDEA, of which 209 were diagnosed with a disability under IDEA.

### Children with Disabilities by Region

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### Table 1: Services at Program Year 2022 – 2023

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### Table 2: Services at Program Year 2022 – 2023

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### Table 3: Services at Program Year 2022 – 2023

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UMOS School Readiness committee has set a benchmark in which 80% of infants and toddlers will fall in the Exploring Middle and Exploring Late developmental level preschool children will fall in the Building Middle or above on the DRDP developmental level.

Children who fall in the Exploring Level will have the knowledge, skills, or behaviors that include active exploration including purposeful movement, purposeful exploration and manipulation of objects, purposeful communication, and the beginnings of cooperation with adults and peers. Children generally begin this period by using nonverbal means to communicate and over time, grow in their ability to communicate verbally or use other conventionalized forms of language.

Children who fall within the Building Level have the knowledge, skills, or behaviors that demonstrate growing understanding of how people and objects relate to one another, how to investigate ideas, and how things work. Children use language to express thoughts and feelings, to learn specific forms of language.

Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers

Aggregated educational outcomes results for UMOS I, UMOS II, UMOS III and IV during Program Year 2022 – 2023 for infants and toddlers (6 weeks to 2.11 years) reveal that throughout all three checkpoints, the average progression levels increased from the first data collection to the mid-year and final checkpoint. On average, preschool children were in the Building Level of the spectrum.

Children that are in the Building Level show understanding of how people and objects relate, how things interact, and how and why they can investigate ideas by themselves. Children at this level can use language to express themselves and participate in group interactions.

Outcomes for Preschoolers

Aggregated educational outcomes results for UMOS I, UMOS II, UMOS III and IV during Program Year 2022 – 2023 for preschoolers (3 to 5 years old) reveal that throughout all three checkpoints, our average progression levels increased from the first data collection to the mid-year and final checkpoint. On average, preschool children were in the Building Level of the spectrum.

Children that are in the Exploring Level have the knowledge, skills, or behaviors that include active exploration including purposeful movement, purposeful exploration and manipulation of objects, purposeful communication, and the beginnings of cooperation with adults and peers.

Family engagement allows UMOS staff to build relationships with families that support family wellbeing. Family engagement supports a parent’s participation in their child’s early care and learning experiences. UMOS promotes parent involvement at each site through parent-teacher conferences, parent groups, and classroom volunteer opportunities. These positive connections between parents and teachers improve children’s academic achievement, social competence, and emotional well-being. These experiences support goal setting, parent-child relationships, professional growth, and peer and community connections.

Families are offered educational opportunities to equip and empower family members to develop knowledge and skills that help foster positive individual and family development so families can function optimally. Every enrolled parent can access Ready Rosie, a research-based family engagement and early learning resource that provides a comprehensive family curriculum based on well-established theories and research.

We focus on strengthening families so many can thrive and develop fully. By the time their child enters kindergarten, their children have developed an academic foundation and social skills necessary to succeed in their educational journey.

Family involvement allows us to foster a sense of connection long before the child and the parent. We place great emphasis on collaborating with families, obtaining family input, and finding diverse ways to encourage collaboration to help create positive relationships with our families.

Fathers are always encouraged to attend school activities and events; bring positive benefits to children; children whose fathers provide them with learning materials and speak with them frequently perform better in school and have more advanced language skills.

Migrant Child Care Program is funded through the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Migrant Child Care (MCC) program extends services for un-served migrant children ages six to twelve. MCC also partners with MSHS locations in Wisconsin to support wrap around childcare services needed by children outside the Head Start hours.

When children are no longer age eligible for MSHS services, preschool children who turn six years of age can be transitioned to MCC. The MCC program operates in licensed centers in Wisconsin and provides educational experiences in a nurturing and safe environment. The families eligible for UMOS’ MHSF services transition their children into MCC. During Program Year 2022 - 2023, MCC provided services to 127 eligible migrant children, an increase of 67 children from the previous year.

The MCC program’s structure also provides the following additional services to families:

- Early: morning services
- Evening: After hours services
- Holiday: Childcare/4th of July
- Saturdays: Full-day services based on the family needs
- Post: After the MSHS program has ended it provides post services to families.
- 6-12 Program: providing services to children ages 6 to 12 that are no longer eligible for MHS Services.
- Centers operate from mid-July to the end of August
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) supports nutrition services for children.
The H-1B One Workforce-TechStars project is in its second year of implementation, providing accelerated technology-based training in various industries to meet the needs of Wisconsin employers. The goal is to provide quality rigorous training for 400 of today’s technology stars to help meet the skills needed for today’s in-demand workplace occupations.

Focused on Wisconsin Residents
Higher levels of skills will be needed to enter the ever emerging and expanding technology field, as well as remote work opportunities for Wisconsin families.

Focused on Employers
H-1B UMOS One Workforce-TechStars provides employer partners customized employee training to assist in meeting the demand for a skilled technology workforce. Areas of training include Computer Numerical Control (CNC) programming, Medical Coding, Cybersecurity, Data Analysis, Network Engineering, Six Sigma, Web/Software Application specialist.

Best Practice Model
UMOS-H-1B One Workforce-TechStars, in partnership with local partner, i.e., stars provide training in accelerated web development and employment placement. Participants are pre-screened, selected, and move through an accelerated six-month training leading to industry recognized certifications and offered employment opportunities through local employer partners. UMOS-H-1B TechStars offers wrap-around services such as coaching, driver’s license recovery, housing resources support, resume development and soft skill training.

Partnerships
Partnerships between UMOS continues to expand to include agencies providing supportive services to complement H-1B One Workforce TechStars. Participants who are hired are assisted with onboarding into employment, which is an added bonus for employers, saving valuable time.

FUNDING SOURCE:
US Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration.

For more information: 414-389-6000.

Addendum
Workforce Development Division

Total Amount of Public and Private Funds Received
The UMOS Child Development Program continues to be funded through State and Federal funding. All UMOS Child Development programs provide services to migrant and seasonal farm working families. Wisconsin has additional childcare funding which helps support our MSHS program. This grant supports quality improvement efforts and/or expands MSHS/MEHS enrollment for children who may be on the waiting list, or migrant children who no longer qualify for MSHS services. The additional childcare funding in the amount of $75,362 has been used to supplement childcare services throughout various locations in Wisconsin.

Results of the Financial Audit Most Recent Review by the Secretary
UMOS submits Single Audit Reports to the Department of Health and Human Services as required. Denotations from the Single Audit Database indicated that the report was complete and received, no findings were identified in the most recent financial audit for year ending June 30, 2022. The financial audit found that UMOS employs systems, procedures, and processes that comply with the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

During Program Year 2022 – 2023, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a monitoring review of UMOS Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs to determine whether the previously identified finding had been corrected. Based on the information gathered during the virtual review, our MSHS program was found to be complying and any previously identified findings have been closed.

Budgetary Expenditures and Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year
The budgetary expenses for Program Year 2023 are aligned with the proposed expenditures. Budgeted funds supported client services for staffing, medical, dental, follow-up activities, disabilities and mental health, transportation, facility, and overall operational costs.

Final SF-425 is due 07/30/2022; 2021 Expenditures information is not final.

Funding Source:
US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) within the Administration for Children and Families.

For more information 956-465-4773.

Child Development Division Addendum

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FUNDING SOURCE:
US Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration.

For more information: 414-389-6000.

UMOS H-1B One Workforce-TechStars is an equal opportunity service program.
Addendum
Social Services Division

FARM AND FOOD WORKERS RELIEF PROGRAM

The United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded 15 non-profits over $600 million to assist farmworkers, meat packers and grocery workers statewide with direct Covid-19 related relief payments. United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will receive $56,886,475 to implement the program in thirteen states. Farmworkers, meatpackers, and grocery workers were classified by the federal government as “essential workers” during the height of the pandemic.

UMOS plans to partner with non-profit organizations in nine of the thirteen states. UMOS and its partners will outreach to agriculture and meatpacking workers and their employers, accept and process applications, collect verification, determine eligibility, and issue payments while maintaining strong financial controls which ensure funds get into the hands of eligible beneficiaries. A one-time direct payment of $600 will be made to over 75,000 eligible applicants within a two-year period.

UMOS will partner with the following agencies:

- Florida – Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations (COFFO)
- Arkansas – Arkansas Human Development Corporation (AHDC)
- Colorado – Rocky Mountain SER
- Kansas – Harvest America
- Iowa – Proteus
- Indiana – Proteus
- Nebraska – Proteus
- Illinois – Illinois Migrant Council
- Missouri – Legal Aid of Western Missouri

For more information: 414-389-6000.

* We applaud USDA for appropriating direct relief payments for eligible 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.“ Lupe Martinez, president, and Chief Executive Officer, UMOS.

UMOS LATINA RESOURCE CENTER

Efforts to Combat Labor Trafficking in Wisconsin

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, one of the largest privately owned foundations in the country, awarded UMOS and its Wisconsin Labor Trafficking Project partners a $5,121,094 anti-human trafficking grant to be administered statewide. The three-year grant will engage and unify law enforcement, prosecutors, advocacy organizations, service providers, and other stakeholders to prevent, disrupt, and address labor trafficking among workers primarily involved in agricultural, dairy, and carnival work.

The WI Labor Trafficking Project will use the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach to strengthen Wisconsin’s community and law enforcement capacity and response to labor trafficking by developing and applying a consistent and well-coordinated approach to arresting and prosecuting traffickers while comprehensively supporting victims throughout the criminal investigation and justice process. With established collaborative partnerships victims are better served and their needs can be fully met.

The Impact Goals are:

a) Increase awareness about labor trafficking in Wisconsin among the public, the service provider community, law enforcement, and state/local prosecutors.

b) Increase identification of labor trafficking victims and their traffickers.

c) Strengthen community and law enforcement capacity and response to labor trafficking victims.

d) Increase justice system action (investigations, charges, and prosecutions) against labor traffickers and their traffickers.

e) Increase system actions (prosecution and conviction) for labor traffickers and their traffickers.

Health Promotions. Harm Reduction.

UMOS Harm Reduction programs secured $14,000 in funding from the West Allis Health Department to create a public awareness, anti-stigma campaign and opioid use in the City of West Allis. This public awareness campaign included:

• Actively included people who engaged in substance use and experienced marginalization for their expertise when developing an opioid anti-stigma campaign.

• Increase knowledge of harm reduction and where to find resources through outreach activities.

• Provide harm reduction services to West Allis residents that decline opioid/other substance use treatment, as a follow-up from MH.

• Inform the residents of West Allis on where/how to receive UMOS harm reduction resources and supplies.

• Inform the residents of West Allis on how to find resources for domestic violence.

For more information: 414-389-6000.
FARM LABOR HOUSING

Temporary and Permanent Housing

UMOS continues to operate three temporary housing centers consisting of 53 total units for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their family members who traveled to Wisconsin and Minnesota during the growing season. We provided temporary rental housing to more than 292 individual farmworkers and 85 families.

UMOS also operated two permanent, year-round housing centers in Wisconsin, consisting of 28 units. Last year UMOS provided permanent, safe, decent, affordable rental housing to more than 261 individual farmworkers and 65 families.

UMOS staff provides all tenants with comprehensive casework services, including advocacy and referrals to employment, education to local schools and adult education, medical services, emergency housing, food and clothing, domestic violence services, childcare, and rental assistance. As needed, all UMOS client services and paperwork are available in English, Spanish, and other languages.

UMOS' Technical Assistance assists non-profit developers and build 36-units of farm labor housing in Wisconsin. UMOS has worked with Southwest Community Action Program in Lafayette County to help them develop farm labor housing in Darlington. It is anticipated this rental housing will be occupied primarily by dairy workers. This $7.4 million project’s cornerstone funding combines grants and loans from the USDA’s Rural Development 514 and 516 Programs.

Currently, UMOS is working with Three Rivers Development in Minnesota to renovate for or construct 101-units of farm labor housing in 3 projects in rural Minnesota. These projects are primarily funded by HUD’s Home funds and Low-Income Tax Credits.

Housing Education

Training Seminars include offering Rent Smart and Homeownership training through UMOS’ National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) personnel and coordination with NFJP providers. These seminars are held in Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Rent Smart seminars focus on tenants’ rights and responsibilities, while Home Ownership Seminars’ primal focus is on homeownership, predatory lending, and how to prepare buyers for home purchases.

Rent Smart seminars were provided to 126 participants. Home Ownership training was provided to 94 participants. Upon completion, farmworkers who participated in the sessions received a $75 housing voucher. Due to COVID, the numbers have been minimal. UMOS is looking to improve these numbers as it continues to navigate the health pandemic.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

UMOS Energy Assistance Program staff provided services in Milwaukee County through to 12,335 households with Public Benefits aka Electric benefits, and 11,984 households with LIHEAP aka Heat benefits; over 1,200 cases less than previous fiscal year due to online applications and more households are over the income guidelines.

The County of Milwaukee served 68,328 homes in which 54,234 qualified for services in public benefits aka electric benefits. In LIHEAP aka heat services, the County of Milwaukee served 68,328 homes in which 52,798 qualified for services. UMOS processed 2100 crisis cases to help customers avoid disconnection and get reconnected when that was the case. UMOS did 200 furnace repairs & replacements. In the annual audit done by the State remotely Milwaukee had no major findings, we didn’t have to reimburse the State, all the cases passed the guidelines.

Community Events

Kenosha County

UMOS hosted a Multi-Agency Community Resource Fair in Kenosha, Wisconsin with more than 60 families in attendance. Families were able to apply for benefits for Energy Assistance, and many other programs and services. We had 37 resource tables, and handed out energy saving kits that were donated to us for the event. We processed applications onsite and scheduled many other appointments for the following week. We saw clients who were facing disconnection of utilities, already disconnected, and had a non-functioning heating system. We were able to refer many families to UW Health’s Home Energy Assistance Program, who were also onsite.

Milwaukee County

In 2022 Energy Assistance did 35 outreach events in which reach thousands of customers were reached, some were Fiesta Mexicana, National Night Out at several districts, Zabicki Community School Leadership Team, Vista Explosiva Chile Caminos, Kids of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Admiral’s hockey games and several Job Fairs.

Every year in our outreach we visit 46 Senior Sites to provide intake to the seniors and disabled tenants on site. We also did a Facebook outreach event to celebrate Weatherization Day in collaboration with Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, La Casa de Esperanza, Social Development Commission, Partners, and Community Advocates. Drive-through stations were set up to giveaway gifts, including weatherization kits, lightbulbs, and informational flyers.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Energy Assistance Program in Milwaukee County DHS receives funding from the State Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DECHR); UMOS is one of the subcontracted agencies. In FY 2022 UMOS received 728,877.00 including amendments to ensure services throughout the year. In FY 2021 (Oct 1, 2021, to Sept 30, 2022), The program continues its regular practices running from October 1 to May 15 for regular Energy Assistance and to September 30 for crisis assistance.