There are an estimated 3 to 5 million migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families in the United States.
- 70% of migrant and seasonal farmworker families live below the poverty line

- Over 250,000 children migrate each year

Migrant farmworker housing is often substandard and more likely to be in proximity to environmentally contaminated areas

Paradoxically, poor nutrition is a primary cause of illness and delayed development and disabilities
Commonly occurring illnesses of migrant children are intestinal parasites, severe asthma, diarrhea, Vitamin A deficiency, chemical poisoning, and otitis media.

The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) program is designed to help break the cycle of poverty.

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Eligibility
- Income below federal poverty guidelines
- Majority (51%) of income is generated from work in agriculture
- Migrant families change residence from one geographic location to another every 2 years
- Seasonal families do not change residence every 2 years
MSHS Facts

- MSHS programs are administered from the national level
- Children served are infants to compulsory school age
- In 2007, the funding level for these programs totaled $267 million
- Programs may operate up to 12 hours per day/7 days

MSHS Facts (cont’.)

Two types of MHS Grantees:

1. Home-Based
   - Serve families in the areas families call home, primarily from September to May
   - Are located in the southern part of the U.S. (e.g., Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, southernmost part of California, and Texas; and

MSHS Facts (cont’.)

2. Upstream
   - Provide services to migrant families as they move (generally northward) in search of agricultural work;
   - Provide direct services in a shorter time frame;
   - Provide service that always encompasses the summer months; and
MSHS Facts (cont’.)

• 66 MSHS grantee and delegate agencies operating over 450 centers, 100 family day care homes, in 38 states

• Approximately 31,500 migrant children and 4,200 seasonal children served annually

• 45.2% are under age three

• 98% are Latino; Spanish the dominant language

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program Profile

- ACF Funded Enrollment 35,657 (as of 5-17-07)
- 66 Grantee/Delegate Agencies
- Center-based full day and family child care

Source: 2005-2006 PIR:
- Children: 16,468 <3
  17,398 >3
- Hispanic 33,037 (by ethnicity)
**MSHS Program Profile (cont')**

- 27,448 children with health insurance
- 6,418 children without health insurance
- 30,251 medical home
- 24,774 dental home
- 2,108 diagnosed disability
- 26,160 children needing child care
- 1,226 receive child care subsidy

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**MSHS Program Profile (cont')**

- 6,954 Staff
- 24,695 MSHS families
- 328 Homeless families
- 12,331 Family health education
- 10,980 Parenting education
- 5,493 Family crisis intervention
- 18,070 Families receiving WIC
Thank you