

Workforce Development Council Meeting (WDC) – April 9, 2024
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative/National Farmworker Jobs Program
(BHSSC/NFJP)
South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation (SDDLRL) State Monitor
Advocate (SMA) Partnership

Black Hills Special Services Coop (BHSSC) NFJP Overview

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) is a nationally directed, locally administered program of services for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents. Career Services and Training grant recipients help farmworkers, and their dependents acquire necessary skills to either stabilize or advance in their agricultural jobs or obtain employment in new industries.

The NFJP is an integral part of the public workforce system and a partner in the nationwide network of American Job Centers. Additionally, NFJP partners with the Monitor Advocate System to ensure farmworkers have equitable access to career services, skill development, and workforce protections offered by American Job Centers, so they may improve their living and working conditions.

The BHSC locally administers the NFJP and provides education and training opportunities for Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW). Services include On-the-Job-Training (OJT), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education, GED Preparation, postsecondary technical education, and customized skills training.

Department of Labor and Regulation State Monitor Advocate (SMA) Overview

In 1974, The Judge Richy Order was filed. This order was due to instances where State agencies were not affording farmworkers equal services. For instance, farm workers would come into a job service office looking for assistance with finding jobs and obtaining job training and they would be refused services.

As a result, the Judge Richy Order was filed. This order established requirements to ensure farm workers would be protected in the future. The key requirement of the order is to ensure MSFWs have equal opportunity to Job Service Offices services.

To ensure states stay compliant with this order, each state must appoint a State Monitor Advocate (SMA). The role of the SMA is to ensure job service offices are:

- Providing equal services to MSFWs
- Conducting adequate outreach
- Provide MSFWs information on their farmworker rights and protections
- Execute their responsibility as the job service office complaint system representative

How the NFJP and SMA collaborate to serve MSFWs

- Joint Outreach
- Referrals and Dual enrollment
- Cross Training
- Data-Sharing Agreement
- Quarterly meetings

Examples of Joint Collaboration

NFJP & SDDLRL Staff at FFA, Brookings – August 2023



Community Connection Event, Rapid City – November 2023



Staff at the SDDL Open House, Sioux Falls - November 2023



NFJP/SDDL staff at Gregory & Job Exploration Fair, Feb. 2024



NFJP/SDDLRL Co-enrollment Rosa Cabrera Gonzalez



Several agencies worked together to assist Rosa, an unemployed single mother of two who faced multiple barriers and needed numerous services. Agencies involved in this collaborative effort included DSS, NFJP, and DLR. Youth Services assistance was also provided to one of her daughters. Through these joint efforts, NFJP/SDDLRL was able to help Rosa secure a full-time permanent job at Marshall's in Aberdeen.

Quote from Rosa:

"Yo estoy muy agradecida con ustedes (NFJP & SDDLRL) por darme una mano de ayuda y agradezco a Dios por poner personas buenas como ustedes aqui en la tierra y ayudar a los que pasan situaciones dificiles. Yo en mi caso, soy madre soltera, pero agradecida con Dios porque siempre pone angeles aqui en la tierra y les agradezco a (NFJP) por la ayuda que me dieron - que Dios los bendiga, Dios los bendiga siempre"

"I am very grateful to you (NFJP & SDDLRL) for giving me a helping hand and I thank God for putting good people like you here on earth and helping those who go through difficult situations. In my case, I am a single mother, but I am grateful to God because he always puts angels here on earth and I thank (NFJP) for the help they gave me - may God bless you; God bless you always."

NFJP/SDDLRL Co-enrollment participant Kevin Parsley



Various agencies came together to assist Kevin, who experienced homelessness and was dealing with multiple obstacles. He met with an SDDL representative in Rapid City who referred him to NFJP. Volunteers of America (VOA), Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC), and Shift Garage in Rapid City were other agencies involved in the process. SHIFT Garage is a dealership that accepts donated cars, repairs them mechanically, and offers them to people who need a low-cost starter car. Customers pay for the parts, but volunteer mechanics provide the labor for free every week to help repair the vehicles.

SHIFT Garage also has a new program called "UpShift," which helps people secure lower-interest loans through Black Hills Federal Credit Union. This program assists individuals in buying a nicer long-term vehicle and building their credit, allowing them to share the responsibility of owning a car while retaining their dignity.

Thanks to this collaboration, Kevin received training at WDT and obtained his CDL. Currently, NFJP/SDDL is working on developing an OJT with Moda Stone, an employer in Blackhawk, which will provide Kevin with an opportunity for permanent employment and a wage increase.

Quote from Kevin:

"Thank you so much for all your help and encouragement. Please stay in touch. Carla (SDDL) has been great as well; you two make a great pair. Thanks again"