



### Decatur Farmworker Health Clinic

1626 E. Shotwell St.  
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Counties served: Decatur, Grady,  
Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas  
Phone: 229-248-3748

### Phoebe Sumter Ellaville Clinic

339 S. Broad St.  
Ellaville, GA 31806

Counties served: Crisp, Macon, Schley, Sumter, Taylor  
Phone: 229-931-8680

### Ellenton Farmworker Health Clinic

185 N. Baker St.  
Ellenton, GA 31747

Counties served: Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Tift  
Phone: 229-324-2845

### Migrant Farmworkers Clinic, Inc.

2186 J'Frank Culpepper Road  
Lake Park, GA 31636

Counties served: Echols, Lowndes  
Phone: 229-559-4550

### South Central Primary Care Center

640 N. Main St., Pearson, GA 31642

Counties served: Atkinson, Coffee  
Phone: 912-544-4569 | Phone: 912-384-2252

### East Georgia Healthcare

117 Memorial Drive  
Reidsville, GA 30453

Counties served: Candler, Tattnall, Toombs  
Phone: 912-557-3300



502 S. 7th St.  
Cordele, GA 31015

Phone: 229-401-3090 | Fax: 229-401-3077  
[www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov)

# Georgia Farmworker Health Program



**The Mission** of the Georgia Farmworker Health Program (GFHP) is to improve the quality of life of Georgia's migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and their families by providing high-quality, culturally sensitive and appropriate health care to agricultural workers, using all available financial, human, and technological resources.

- Created in 1990 to provide primary and preventive health care and to improve the general health status of migrant and seasonal farmworkers
- Provides screenings for hypertension and diabetes
- Partners with other state and local agencies to provide other needed services
- Promotes health education on the importance of diet and nutrition
- Strives to ensure that services provided are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Clinics open during traditional and non-traditional hours to offer best access to health care

## Do you realize?

The price you pay for the food you eat is a direct result of the labor supplied by migrant workers?



There is an estimated 2.4 million hired farmworkers in the U.S., including migrant, seasonal, year-round, and guest program workers. These farmworkers are considered the backbone of a multi-billion dollar agricultural industry in the U.S.

Migrant farm labor supports the \$11 billion fruit and vegetable industry in the U.S.; 85% of which are harvested and/or cultivated.

The production of fruit and vegetable crops in the U.S. has steadily increased over the last decade. Without the seasonal influx of migrant farm labor during peak periods, the production of many fruit and vegetable crops would not be possible.

In 2021, Georgia's total farm and agriculture crop sales reached over \$14 billion with over \$6.6 billion in vegetables alone. The presence of farmworkers has been shown to increase the overall economic output of the regions in which they work.

A lack of farmworkers and switching to less labor-intensive crops has had a negative impact on regions and reduced the number of jobs available to permanent local residents.

Can you quickly understand the value migrant workers bring to your table on a daily basis? Migrant and seasonal farmworkers represent some of the most economically disadvantaged people in the U.S. Three out of five farm worker families have incomes below the poverty level.

## What happens if they get sick?

The health status of migrant farmworkers is at the same standard of most developing nations, while the country in which they work, the United States, is one of the richest nations on earth.



Poverty and often times poor living conditions, frequent mobility, low literacy, language, cultural and logistic barriers impede farmworkers' access to social services and cost effective primary health care. Economic conditions make farm workers reluctant to miss work in order to seek health services.

Farmworkers are not protected by sick leave and risk losing their jobs if they miss a day of work. These circumstances cause farm workers to postpone seeking health care unless their condition becomes so severe that they cannot work.

Many farmworkers must rely on expensive emergency room care for their health care needs which they often cannot afford. Migrant health centers provide accessible care for farm workers, but existing centers have the capacity to serve 65 to 70% of these workers.

## What does Georgia offer?

Based on the most recent 2021 data from the Health Services Administration Bureau of Primary Health, Georgia is the leading state in the country for providing cost effective health care to farmworkers.



The Georgia Farmworker Health Clinics are open during traditional hours of operation and offer clinic hours and camp site visits during the evening and on weekends, providing primary and preventive health care.

The Georgia Farmworker Health Program, through the Department of Community Health, has partnered with many groups and institutions of higher learning, including Medical College of Georgia, Emory University, Georgia Southwestern University, Georgia Southern University, Valdosta State University, and Area Health Education Centers to offer screenings, health care and education with students from these schools. GFHP has collaborative agreements with other agencies, both public and private.