

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 941**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Members Bennett and Robert Rivas**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Limón)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Medina, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson,  
Lorena Gonzalez and Villapudua)**

(Coauthor: Senator Dodd)

February 17, 2021

---

---

An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 12710) to Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to farmworkers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 941, as amended, Bennett. Farmworker assistance: resource centers.

Existing law establishes the Department of Community Services and Development within the California Health and Human Services Agency to supplement and coordinate public and private sector efforts to assist low-income participants, including homeless individuals and families, migrants, and the elderly poor, to secure and retain meaningful employment, attain an adequate education, make better use of available income, and obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment.

Existing law, the California Community Services Block Grant Program, requires the department to administer the federal Community

Services Block Grant funds to provide financial assistance for activities designed to have a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in a community or areas of a community where poverty is a particularly acute problem.

Existing law authorizes this funding to assist programs that, among other things, meet the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families, such as daycare for children and elderly persons, education, health services, improved housing and sanitation, legal advice and representation, and consumer training and counseling, and assistance in processing applications for legalization and citizenship.

This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require the department to establish a grant program for counties to establish farmworker resource centers that provide farmworkers and their families information and access to services related to, among other things, labor and employment rights, education, housing, immigration, and health and human services. The bill would make a county’s eligibility for funding under the grant program contingent upon the county working with local or statewide community-based organizations to develop the center, providing 25% of the center’s funding under the program, and requiring the center to provide services in at least English and ~~Spanish~~. *Spanish, to provide an assessment of the population the center would serve, and to maintain a cost-effective database to track the number and type of calls received, referrals made, and claims filed, and to monitor local trends. The bill would require the department to convene and facilitate a workgroup to assist in the establishment and administration of the grant program, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 12710) is  
2 added to Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,  
3 to read:

4  
5 CHAPTER 8. FARMWORKER RESOURCE CENTER GRANT PROGRAM

6  
7 12710. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and  
8 declares:

1 (a) Agriculture is both a major industry and employer in  
2 California.

3 (b) Farmworkers are an essential component of a successful and  
4 sustainable agricultural industry.

5 (c) There are approximately 420,000 farmworkers in California.

6 (d) It is important for California to address the challenges faced  
7 by farmworkers and the agricultural industry.

8 (e) California has long been an agricultural model for modern  
9 agriculture, adapting to meet 21st century challenges and needs  
10 with broadly shared benefits for consumers, agricultural employers,  
11 and workers.

12 12711. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions  
13 apply:

14 (a) “Center” means a farmworker resource center.

15 (b) “Department” means the Department of Community Services  
16 and Development.

17 (c) “Program” means the grant program established and  
18 administered by the department pursuant to this chapter.

19 12712. (a) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the  
20 department shall establish and administer a grant program for  
21 eligible counties to establish and fund farmworker resource centers  
22 that provide information and access to services described in  
23 subdivision (b) to farmworkers and their families.

24 (b) Services provided at a center may include, but are not limited  
25 to, the following:

26 (1) Assistance in filing with all state or local agencies that serve  
27 farmworkers, *including in filing paperwork with state or local*  
28 *agencies*, if deemed appropriate by the county.

29 (2) Referrals to organizations, including legislative offices and  
30 community-based organizations.

31 (3) Providing resources and answering questions regarding  
32 programs related to labor and employment rights, education,  
33 housing, utilities, immigration, and health and human services,  
34 including, but not limited to, food security, mental health, and  
35 childcare assistance.

36 (c) A center may provide services to farmworkers at a brick and  
37 mortar location that is in an area accessible to the farmworker  
38 community being served in the county or through a mobile center  
39 to conduct outreach where farmworkers live and work.

1 12713. To be eligible for funding under the program a county  
2 shall do all of the following:

3 (a) Work with local or statewide community-based organizations  
4 in order to develop the center.

5 (b) Provide 25 percent of the center's program funding under  
6 this chapter.

7 (c) Require the center to provide services in at least English and  
8 Spanish. Centers funded through the program are encouraged to  
9 provide services in additional languages as requested by the  
10 relevant community-based organizations.

11 (d) *Require the center to provide an assessment of the population*  
12 *the center would serve, including, but not limited to, an assessment*  
13 *of languages other than English or Spanish that would be*  
14 *accommodated by the center.*

15 (e) *Require the center to maintain a cost-effective database to*  
16 *track the number and type of calls received, referrals made, and*  
17 *claims filed, and to monitor local trends.*

18 12714. (a) *To assist in the establishment and administration*  
19 *of the program, the department shall convene and facilitate a*  
20 *workgroup that includes, but is not limited to, the following*  
21 *representatives:*

22 (1) *A nonmanagement representative from an existing*  
23 *farmworker resource center.*

24 (2) *Three representatives from community-based organizations*  
25 *with a history of serving the farmworker communities.*

26 (3) *A representative from a community-based organization that*  
27 *works with indigenous farmworkers.*

28 (4) *A representative from the Division of Occupational Safety*  
29 *and Health.*

30 (5) *A representative from a local public health department.*

31 (6) *A representative from the California State Association of*  
32 *Counties.*

33 (7) *A representative from the County Welfare Directors*  
34 *Association of California.*

35 (b) *The working group and the department shall do all of the*  
36 *following:*

37 (1) *Develop and establish common indicators and metrics for*  
38 *the evaluation of grant applications.*

39 (2) (A) *Determine and approve grant awardees based on the*  
40 *metrics and indicators it establishes pursuant to paragraph (1).*

- 1    *(B) Ensure that initial grants are awarded to counties in*
- 2    *different regions of the state.*
- 3    *(3) Establish standards and metrics to evaluate awardees within*
- 4    *18 months after an awardee has established a center.*

O