

Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project

Helping Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse



Migrant women and children are especially vulnerable to domestic violence due to their legal status, extreme poverty, language barrier and distance from family support systems.

Seeing substantial increases in the number of reported domestic abuse claims in the migrant worker population, Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project (MMLAP) is expanding their services to help women and children in need. MMLAP is providing education, outreach and legal assistance to women and children in order to help them find a safe home.

All women experiencing domestic violence have complex personal and legal issues, and these issues are compounded by a migrant worker's legal status. Fear of retribution, difficulty accessing services, and isolation all conspire to keep women and children in an unsafe situation.

MMLAP will establish a team consisting of bilingual attorneys who specialize in immigration and family law to represent victims in domestic violence court cases. It will also expand outreach to migrant worker populations to increase awareness of services that are available to them.

Grant Facts

Organization: Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project

Grant amount: \$100,000

Grant Purpose: To support a co-counsel program to assist migrant worker victims of domestic violence.

Web site: <http://mmlap.com/>

Started: 1972

Location: 1104 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

No. served: program estimates serving 50 clients in 2011

Area served: Kent County

Part of providing these expanded services includes outreach both to camps where migrant workers live and their places of worship. Another important component is coordination with other local agencies such as Legal Aid of West Michigan and other providers of domestic violence services, such as YWCA and Safe Haven.

This Is Community Leadership

A safe home is a basic human right.

To **improve the health of women and children**, the Community Foundation seeks to **invest** in programs that **create safe home environments**. A safe home is one that is free from violence, including abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Please call Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project at 616.454.5055 to learn more.

- **Seasonal Outreach Assistant** - \$3,500
- **Immigration Software** - \$1,000
- **Pocket Resource Guides** - \$3,000
- **Children's Lobby Chairs and Play Table** - \$350

*To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the **Fund for Healthy People**. Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.*



Grand Rapids

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