



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

April 24, 2024

Mr. José Javier Rodríguez
Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Re: Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington NFJP Application

Assistant Secretary Rodríguez,

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners write to support the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington's application to the U.S. Department of Labor's National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)—FOA-ETA-24-15. The requested grant funds will allow the OIC to continue serving migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents, providing quality workforce-related services, and developing skills to pursue a career of their choice in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.


The proposed program will provide services to youth and adults living in the highest-need agricultural areas such as targeted outreach, comprehensive assessments, development of in-demand employment services, an action plan, training, experiential learning activities, placement in high-growth industry employment, and follow-up services. The OIC has more than 23 years of experience working directly with migrant and seasonal farmworkers to achieve programmatic outcomes.

In Skagit County we have witnessed the OIC of Washington's dedication and effectiveness in addressing our community's needs through its three pillared divisions: Education and Career Services, Supportive Services, and Outreach, Recruitment, and Data. In the past year, OIC has enrolled students in over 2,000 education and career services programs across fourteen counties and issued nearly 600 students approximately \$900,000 in scholarships and tuition assistance to enroll and complete industry-recognized credentials. The OIC's track record of creating generational impacts on rural communities throughout Washington State is unmatched.

We are in full support of the OIC's application to the U.S. Department of Labor National Farmworker Jobs Program. We believe that by working together, we can create meaningful and sustainable solutions to address our communities' challenges.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Peter Browning, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Ron Wesen, Commissioner