



**SECTION:** Certification 657  
**SUBJECT:** MIGRANT FARMWORKERS: Definition  
**DATE:** July 5, 2012 (*revised*)

**POLICY:** Local WIC programs shall report service to migrant farmworkers, using a consistent state-wide definition for migrant farmworker.

**PURPOSE:** To define migrant farmworkers and indicate how to document them in TWIST for reporting purposes.

**RELEVANT REGULATIONS:** 7 CFR §246.2 Definition  
7 CFR §246.7(c) & (d)(2)(ix) Certification of participants  
WRO Policy Memo 803-X (7/7/94) Loggers as Migrant Farmworkers

**OREGON WIC PPM REFERENCES:** ♦475—Waiting List  
♦605—Processing Standards  
♦640—Documentation Requirements for Certification in TWIST  
♦652—WIC Transfer Card and WIC Overseas Program

**DEFINITIONS:**

*Agriculture* Farming, harvesting, nursery work or other activities related to the production of crops. This may include tree farming or timber harvesting, where the crop is not intended for human consumption. It may also include dairy or fishery work, where the crop is animal rather than vegetable.

*Migrant farmworker* A person whose principal employment is in seasonal agriculture, who has been so employed in the last 24 months, and who establishes, because of that employment, a temporary abode.

*Principal Employment* Over half of the person's job, as measured by time worked or income generated.

*Temporary Abode* Temporary abode is established when a job location requires the worker to temporarily move from his or her place of residence. It can also be considered temporary housing established to allow work in short-term, seasonal labor.

*Transfer Card* Also referred to as a Verification of Certification (VOC), a Transfer Card is an identification card issued to members of migrant farmworker families and to WIC participants planning to relocate, to expedite transfer of benefits.

**BACKGROUND:** Migrant farmworkers and their families are at risk of poor nutrition due to low or seasonal income, exposure to environmental hazards, inadequate housing and often lack of formal education. For these reasons, migrant farmworker families are a priority for WIC.

- PROCEDURE:**
- 1.0 Determine whether participant is a migrant farmworker or a member of a migrant farmworker family.
    - 1.1 Participants are to be screened for migrant status when prescreened or certified for WIC or transferred from another state or local agency.
    - 1.2 Questions such as the following can help identify migrant farmworkers:
      - 1.2.1 Do you, or does someone in your family, work in agriculture – the farm fields, nursery, tree farm?
      - 1.2.2 Is that work a major source of your family's income?
      - 1.2.3 In the past two years, have you, or has someone in your family, moved away from your home base to do this kind of work?
  - 2.0 In the TWIST data system, document participant's migrant status in TWIST on the WIC Intake Screen.
  - 3.0 Refer to ♦605—Processing Standards for information about the processing standards for enrolling a migrant applicant.
  - 4.0 Refer to ♦475—Waiting List for information about the standard for a migrant if a waiting list is kept. Also, refer to ♦640—Documentation Requirements for Certification in TWIST for information about documentation requirements when a migrant is placed on a waiting list.
  - 5.0 Refer to ♦652—WIC Transfer Card and WIC Overseas Program for information about requirements for issuing a Transfer Card to a migrant.
  - Special situations:* 6.0 It is appropriate for a local program to code a participant as a migrant farmworker if the participant (or member of their family):
    - 5.1 Lives in the local program area but leaves that area to work in short-term, seasonal agriculture.
    - 5.2 Comes into the local program area to work in short-term, seasonal agriculture. ★

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