



**The Farmworker Association of Florida**  
**La Asociación Campesina**  
**Asosiyasyon Travayè Latè**

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**STATEMENT of the FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA on COVID-19**

**We are living in unprecedented times. The Farmworker Association's five offices in Florida remain open at this time in order to serve the needs of our impacted communities.** While taking precautionary measures to protect our staff, volunteers, community leaders, and community members, we continue to provide assistance with incredibly important food stamp and Medicaid application services; documenting and addressing wage theft cases; referring community members to clinics and other local resources; addressing community members' problems as they arise; and providing food to the most needy.

Equally importantly, we are informing and educating our communities on what they need to do to best protect themselves and their families (See videos created by FWAF). Through Facebook and other social media, we are reaching farmworkers where they live and work with vitally important information about protective measures they must take and that they have rights to proper field sanitation supplies and health and safety protections. **We are working on a local, state and national level for programs and policies that protect farmworkers and other low-wage workers and that cover immigrants, regardless of their immigration status in this time of crisis.**

And, the work continues. While we agree that if you have the privilege to work from home and shelter in place you should act upon it, this is not an option for **the men and women who labor in the fields every day to bring food to our tables.** We know that when so much of our world is in an upheaval, that this is a time of possibilities for transformational change, in which we can re-think our entire food system and employ localized worker-led agroecological principles, which FWAF has been building towards for a decade. This crisis is an open the door to a Just Transition that sees an end to discrimination and inequality and ushers in an era of equity and justice. We are working tirelessly towards these goals, and we have a vision of a better future that will arise out of the current tragedy. If we can envision it, we can do it!

We appreciate your support at this time, as we weather the current crisis. Your support helps us lead the way to a transformative future.

May you and your families stay safe and healthy.