

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
OFFICE OF MIGRANT SERVICES**

1800 Third Street, Suite 390  
P. O. Box 952054  
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2007 DEC 18 P 3:21

December 17, 2007

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Board of Supervisors  
County of Stanislaus  
1010 10th Street, Ste. 6700  
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Members of the Board:

The Office of Migrant Services (OMS) has provided safe, decent and affordable seasonal rental housing and support services for migrant farm worker families during the peak harvest season for more than 30 years. While construction and rehabilitation of center facilities has been financed by a variety of federal and state loans, grants and appropriations, the operations at the 25 OMS centers located in 15 counties is drawn from the State's general fund.

This year the State of California is again facing a decline in general fund revenues which support many State programs, including the operation of our centers. For this reason, General Fund programs are facing reductions for the 2008-09 Fiscal Year, which begins in July 2008. The OMS, in accordance with Section 7650 of the OMS regulations, is requesting that the State's agricultural employers (farmers, ranchers, canneries, packing operations and processing plants) consider assisting us with donations to meet the projected shortfall in funding from the State of California. We are also requesting that our partners (housing authorities and counties) do the same.

Our request is that you consider helping the OMS fund its operations for the upcoming harvest season and, if possible beyond. We are also requesting that the State's agricultural employers (farmers, ranchers, canneries, packing and processing plants) do the same.

We are asking that your agency identify and pursue funding from not only employers in your area, but also from agencies that support farm workers and their families. As you know, a reduction in general fund money to our centers means a reduced subsidy for rents.

Many of you are aware that this is a step in the process designed to prevent the OMS from having to increase rents in our centers. It is also necessary to avoid the even more drastic measure of permanently closing one or more centers due to lack of operating funds.

Your ideas and comments on this issue are important to us. Please contact us with any ideas or thoughts that you may have to assisting the OMS with this difficult situation. As we embark on this season of housing some of California's most impoverished and hard working people, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for your assistance.

**Note:** All funds collected should be sent to the following address and be designated for the OMS Migrant Housing Fund:

CA Department of Housing  
and Community Development  
Accounting, MS 415  
Farmworker Housing Grant, OMS Account  
P.O. Box 952050  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2050

Send ideas and comments to the address in the letterhead above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arturo Rodriguez', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Arturo Rodriguez  
Program Manager  
Office of Migrant Services