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# CalAgrAbility **FACTact**

## Ability Solutions for Agricultural Communities

### Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Families: Child Care for Children with Disabilities



SOURCE: <https://catholiccharitiesny.org/blog/free-respite-new-york-parents-children-special-needs>

The term *migrant and seasonal workers* refers to agricultural workers who migrate throughout the United States following seasonal work. As a migrant family, access to child care can become difficult due to factors such as income instability, language barriers, and access to child care programs that meet the

needs of the migration. Additionally, finding child care for migrant children living with disabilities can be a difficult task due to the type of disability (i.e. physical, emotional, etc.) and limited access to resources, but it is definitely not impossible. The National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA) was created in 1969 specifically to cater to the child care needs of agricultural migrant families. NMSHSA is now available in 38 states and serves migrant and seasonal children ages 0-5. Ten percent of children served in NMSHSA programs have diagnosed disabilities. Other children are evaluated on-site by certified Center for Parent Information & Resources staff who can help identify a child who is in need of special services. Staff works with families to access to services through resources and referrals that will last a lifelong wherever they go.

### How Can California AgrAbility Help?

California AgrAbility has developed many tools to effectively outreach to and support migrant and seasonal farm workers this is done through advocacy such as visiting migrant housing facilities and meeting potential clients at health fairs and conferences. California AgrAbility can help migrant families affected by a disability by referring families to agency resources such as local or state programs that can help the client live a successful life. Some examples include peer support, transportation services, or clinical services.



Source: California AgrAbility Twitter

California AgrAbility can help migrant families affected by a disability by referring families to agency resources such as local or state programs that can help the client live a successful life. Some examples include peer support, transportation services, or clinical services.



**Ability Tools**  
Ability Tools connects Californians with disabilities to assistive technology devices, tools and services to make life easier.

[abilitytools.org/](http://abilitytools.org/)

Email:  
[info@abilitytools.org](mailto:info@abilitytools.org)

Toll Free Phone  
(800) 390-2699  
TTY  
(800) 900-0706

## Why migrant and seasonal children with disabilities often go undiagnosed:

Due to the frequency of mobility, migrant and seasonal children with disabilities have a higher probability of being undiagnosed due to cultural barriers and the inability to find services in a new city. Agencies working with migrant children with disabilities need to be diligent about educating families on their rights to services and provide families with the tools to provide their children with the best care possible. Listed below are a few programs and resources for accessing child care and lifelong resources for migrant and seasonal children with disabilities. Be sure to check out these resources as they may be a good resource for you or someone you know!

### National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association

1133 15th Street NW Suite 450  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 223-9889  
<https://www.nmshsa.org/>



The National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA) advocates for comprehensive, high-quality Head Start services for migrant farm working families with children ages 0-5 by building stronger communities and the lifelong success of children and their families. Over 10% of the children served have disabilities and receive inclusive services through resources and referrals. NMSHSA Programs offer health education classes for families designed to teach migrant and seasonal families how to assess and seek help to care for their children's health as they migrate from one region to another. To find a NMSHSA program near you, visit the website above.

### Office of Migrant Education

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202  
(202) 205-1164



<https://results.ed.gov/about>

Migrant Education (MEP) travels directly to migrant centers and farmworker housing complexes ensuring that migratory children are provided with appropriate education services (including supportive services) that address their special needs and that children receive full and appropriate opportunities to meet state academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet. On occasion, MEP collaborates with other programs, such as California AgrAbility offering diverse community services to migrant farm working families.

### Center for Parent Information & Resources

35 Halsey St., 4th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 642-8100



[www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/)

The Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR) is an online information hub complied with resources to assist families of children with disabilities. CPIR provides families with access to Parent Resource Centers, "working with families of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, birth to 26. CPIR helps parents participate effectively in their children's education and development." To find a Parent Resources Center near you, visit the website above.



United States  
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of Food and  
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[nifa.usda.gov/program/agrability](http://nifa.usda.gov/program/agrability)

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CalAgrAbility serves farm and ranch families affected by disability and illness protecting the quality of life and preserving livelihoods.

[CalAgrAbility.UCDavis.edu](http://CalAgrAbility.UCDavis.edu)