



# ENSURING A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

## Overview

Hudson River Health Care (HRHCare) is one of the largest providers of community-based health care services to agricultural workers in New York State, serving over 9,000 individuals across five counties in 2018<sup>1</sup>. The Hudson Valley and Long Island, where HRHCare has numerous health centers, are home to orchards, vegetable farms, vineyards, greenhouses, nurseries, and dairy and poultry farms. The New York agriculture sector generates \$21.2B in sales, with a downstream economic impact of \$39.4B, and over 160,000 jobs<sup>2</sup>.

In order for New York State's agriculture sector to continue to thrive and keep pace with other states, it is critical that the workforce has access to health care services that maximize productivity and ensure long term health. An estimated \$160 million per year is lost due to illness among agricultural workers nationally<sup>3</sup>, while only 42% of agricultural worker patients have health insurance, and 75% live at or below the federal poverty level<sup>4</sup>. Agricultural workers are a vulnerable and underserved community, and HRHCare has a long history of innovative practices to overcome barriers agricultural workers face in accessing health care.

## Our Work

- + Collaborations with local farmers, faith leaders, and businesses to identify and assist workers who need health services
- + On-site services across our network tailored to agricultural workers, such as language-competent services, transportation, case management, medical interpretation, safety training, and specialty care navigation
- + Mobile Health Centers in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island that visit rural regions to provide primary and dental care in rural communities
- + Events at local farms and health centers providing occupational health and safety services, health screenings, health education, and migrant health vouchers



**Figure 1** Outreach Staff Assisting Farmworker

## About Hudson River Health Care (HRHCare)

Founded over 40 years ago as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Hudson River Health Care (HRHCare) is one of the nation's largest community health providers. The HRHCare network of 43 health centers throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island provides affordable, accessible care to over 225,000 patients annually. The network's exceptional primary care practitioners, specialists, and support staff have made HRHCare a destination for convenient, high-quality care for all. In 2018, Brightpoint Health, an FQHC network with sites in all five boroughs of New York City, joined HRHCare.

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<sup>1</sup> HRHCare Informatics UDS report, January 2019

<sup>2</sup> Farm Credit East report, Northeast Economic Engine, June 2015

<sup>3</sup> Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Report, May 2013

<sup>4</sup> HRHCare Informatics UDS report, January 2019