



Housing, Health, & Human Services

663 E. Main Street, Suite A P.O. Box 423 Somerton, Arizona, 85350

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September 29, 2023

For Immediate Press Release

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**Campesinos Sin Fronteras is awarded \$1.125M from the National Institute of Health Common Fund to administer a Community-Led, Health Equity Structural Intervention Initiative (CHESI): Achieving Equity in Farmworker Health Through Community-Led Research.**

Somerton, AZ: Campesinos Sin Fronteras (CSF), a grass-roots, non-profit 501c3 organization that has earned a reputation as a relentless advocate of health equity for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, has been awarded \$1.125M this year, with an anticipated overall award of \$6 million over five years, from the National Institute of Health, an agency of the United States Government. The project is funded by the NIH Common Fund award number OT2OD035606. These funds are awarded to allow CSF to administer a Community-Led Health Equity Structural Intervention Initiative (CHESI) under the Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS) Program.

The ComPASS program seeks to make greater advances in promoting health and preventing disease among disproportionately impacted populations. The impetus for ComPASS is the increasing recognition that advancing health equity is a complex challenge that extends beyond the reach of traditional healthcare settings, organizations, or research agendas. Rather than tackling health disparities by disease and condition or in a single population group, an NIH-wide strategy was created within ComPASS to foster efforts to address structural causes of differential health outcomes, which will impact multiple diseases and conditions through several pathways.

Under the direction of Campesinos Sin Fronteras' Executive Director, Mrs. Emma Torres, MSW, the Community-Led, Health Equity Structural Interventions (CHESIs) will develop, implement, assess, and disseminate co-created community-led, health equity structural interventions for the farmworker community.

*"I am honored that the National Institute of Health (NIH) has entrusted Campesinos Sin Fronteras with this imperative project and I commend the NIH and the ComPASS Team for recognizing that the farmworker community is vital, yet disproportionately impacted by health disparities. We*



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*applaud their willingness to invest in a culturally competent research approach to identify and address the structural barriers to health for this essential workforce that feeds our nation. Campesinos Sin Fronteras is committed to utilizing a “high-road” inclusive process, working collaboratively with all stakeholders, including agricultural employers, housing developers, and health providers, to achieve substantive improvement in the overall health and well-being of one of our nation’s greatest assets; our farmworker community.”*

*Emma Torres, MSW  
Executive Director of Campesinos Sin Fronteras*

*Campesinos Sin Fronteras’ Board President, Mrs. Olivia Zepeda, was ecstatic when she learned of the award and extended a heartfelt commendation to the CSF team.*

*“Congratulations to the CSF team. Your tireless efforts, hard work, and persistence have paid off. The work for our farmworkers continues.”*

*Other CSF Board Members echoed President Zepeda’s sentiments.*

The University of Arizona Prevention Research Center (AzPRC) is the primary research partner and will assist with engaging the farmworker community in developing and evaluating the structural intervention. Located within the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, the AzPRC has partnered with Campesinos Sin Fronteras on numerous research and evaluation projects that have directly impacted access to and quality of health-related services for Yuma farmworkers. AzPRC Co-Director Maia Ingram will lead the UA team in working collaboratively with CSF to engage the farmworker community in this effort.

*“Campesinos Sin Fronteras has tremendous expertise in understanding and addressing issues facing farmworkers in their community. The AzPRC is extremely excited about this opportunity to support Campesinos Sin Fronteras in developing and implementing an intervention that addresses the structural problems that seriously undermine the health of the farmworker community. We are also confident that our research partnership will provide important lessons about how to measure the impact of this work on health equity.”*

*Maia Ingram, AzPRC Co-Director*

NIH News Release <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launches-community-led-research-program-advance-health-equity>

For more information, please visit [www.campesinossinfronteras.com](http://www.campesinossinfronteras.com).