

UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
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FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION

The United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW) is a national farm workers union with headquarters in La Paz, Keene, California 93531. President is Cesar Chavez; Vice President is Dolores Huerta. UFW policies are adopted by a bi-annual farm worker convention and carried out by a 9-member elected executive board. Membership reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of farm workers: Mexican-American, Black, Filipino, Puerto Rican, and White.

The UFW, or "LA CAUSA" as it is frequently called, is a movement designed to build an organization which democratically represents the needs and aspirations of farm workers throughout the United States. Those needs and aspirations are reflected in the many efforts of the union to change the economic, social, and political conditions which have kept most of America's 3 million farm workers in poverty.

The union has a local organization in Illinois for the purpose of promoting UFW-sponsored boycotts and the farm workers movement. Twenty staff organizers and numerous volunteer committees work on boycott efforts throughout the city of Chicago, the suburbs, and downstate. In Illinois, the UFW has enlisted the support of hundreds of local unions, churches, civic organizations, and public officials. The Illinois office of the UFW is part of an international UFW boycott organization with staff in over 50 cities, and volunteer committees in hundreds of other cities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

UFW field offices and service centers provide assistance to farm workers in California, Florida, Arizona, and Texas. Field operations include many legal clinics, 5 health clinics, a credit union, hiring halls, and a retirement village. A new health clinic will be opened in Avon Park, Florida in summer 1976. All UFW field and boycott staff receive the same allowance: \$5.00 per week, plus room, board and gas expenses.

PART I. THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

On June 5, 1975, the State of California enacted a farm labor law, the first legislation protecting the right of seasonal farm workers to unionize. Some of its provisions include: 1) the right to union recognition elections during peak season, 2) definitions of unfair labor practices by unions and employers, 3) access to workers by union organizers, under established guidelines, and 4) requirement that employers and unions bargain in good faith.