# Summary of Pre-Planning Meeting: Data

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## Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

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### Source: Unemployment Insurance (UI) system

* Primary source of worker data for DEED
* Each wage record is tied to a social security number
* <https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/unemployment-insurance-statistics/>

#### Data Collected

* Number of workers
* Demographics
* Occupation, Industry
* Education Level

#### Strengths

* DEED can get an estimate of the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Minnesota through the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) Services program, led by Maria Estela Hernandez. This program currently estimates that there are about 3,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Minnesota.

#### Challenges

* A lot of farms aren’t required to report data for UI
* A lot of farms pay farm laborers in cash
* DEED will go to other organizations for farm worker data
  + American Community Survey
  + USDA
  + Tri-Valley Opportunity

## Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS)

Mario Solis, Paralegal

### Source: Outreach Program

* Coordinate visits to meet face-to-face with workers at their housing location in the evenings between work and sleep.
* Use Google Maps and other software to locate housing
* Cover the entire area of North Dakota and Minnesota
* Have started to do mail outreach as well, since the pandemic

#### Data Collected

* Housing Location, Address
* Type of Housing (houses, apartments, trailers, etc)
* Overall condition of housing, as viewed from the outside

#### Strengths

* Easy to find housing location for H-2A workers, since their information is public
* Outreach is done every year, which helps SMRLS track trends
* Face-to-face visits help develop trust, make it more likely those workers will reach out for legal services

#### Challenges

* Only a few attorneys, paralegals, and other staff to cover a very large geographic area
* Brief window to meet and talk with workers, between work hours and sleep
* Often get faulty addresses for workers
* Domestic workers (not H-2A) are often spread out across apartments and trailer parks, difficult to identify which unit they actually live in.