# EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO RESPOND TO BIOEMERGENCIES AND MANAGE RISKS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE WORKERS, SANITATION WORKERS, AND DOMESTIC WORKERS

ARTURO ARCHILA

SAFETY AND HEALTH PROJECT DIRECTOR

THE LABOR INSTITUTE / UNITED STEELWORKERS

## LABOR AND COMMUNITY ALLIANCES ARE KEY TO PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE











#### CURRENT BARRIERS FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

- LACK OF ACCESS TO PPE
- LACK OF UPDATED TRAINING
- COMMUNITIES' LACK OF AWARENESS TO RISKS
- LANGUAGE ACCESS BARRIERS
- EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND INFORMATION
- POLICIES THAT MARGINALIZE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

#### SPECIALIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINERS

- TMC IS LEADING THE CHARGE IN THE CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP SPECIALIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINERS TO CONDUCT TRAINING IN DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS
- CURRENTLY DEVELOPING USW LOCAL'S GUIDE AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS BY INTERVIEWING AND ASSESSING DISASTER VULNERABILITIES.
- FOCUSING ON BUILDING CAPACITY AND GUIDES FOR COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS TO RESPOND IN TIMES OF CRISIS





#### OUR PARTNERS WORK AT MAKE THE ROAD

- MRNY CURRENTLY IS WORKING ON PROVIDING TRAINING FOR HOME CLEANERS FOCUSED ON CHEMICAL EXPOSURE, THEY ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH ABOUT 400 DOMESTIC WORKERS, WHO NOW WANT ACCESS TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRAINING
- THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUOUSLY PROVIDES SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND WILL BE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES TRAINING
- THE ORGANIZATION IS ALSO PROVIDING AN ARRAY OF ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS.









### MAKE THE ROAD'S COMMUNITY ACTION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- CREATING AND DISSEMINATING ACCURATE, BILINGUAL AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT MATERIALS ON THE VIRUS TO OUR 24K+ MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
- HOLDING KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAININGS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLINE SO PEOPLE HAVE THE LATEST INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, CENSUS PARTICIPATION, AND OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES.
- WAGING ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE POLICIES THAT PROTECT WORKING CLASS NEW YORKERS DURING THIS TIME, SUCH AS IMPOSING MORATORIUMS ON HOME EVICTIONS AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.
- SHIFTING OUR WAYS OF WORKING TO MINIMIZE CONTACT MOVING ADULT LITERACY CLASSES ONLINE,
   FOR EXAMPLE, AND HAVING VIDEO CALLS INSTEAD OF IN-PERSON ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN
   ORDER TO CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE AND KEEP US ALL SAFE FROM THE VIRUS.
- CONTINUING TO PROVIDE SCREENING AND LEGAL SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE IMPACTED BY THE NEW PUBLIC CHARGE RULE AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES.
- STAFFING A CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

### NATIONAL DAY LABORER ORGANIZING NETWORK NDLON

- PRIOR TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK NDLON WAS ABLE TO REACH THOUSANDS OF WORKERS THROUGH ITS OSHA INITIATIVES, CURRENTLY TRAININGS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE VIRUS, ITS AN AREA THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
- CURRENTLY DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES.
- THE TRAININGS ARE GOING TO BE BASED AROUND POPULAR EDUCATION
   METHODOLOGY, THEY WILL FOCUS ON PPE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRAINING, HAZARD ID
   AND PREVENTION, QUARANTINE AND ITS PREP.
- OUTREACH WILL BE DONE BY PHONE BANKING AND BY USING RADIO JORNALERA TO PASS INFORMATION
- THEY WILL INCLUDE THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRAINING IN SOME OF THE HOME HEALTH AIDE INITIATIVES AND IN THE PROMOTORAS MODEL



### PLAN FOR WORKER & MIGRANT JUSTICE AS PART OF THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE.

- STOP ICE AND CBP: ENACT AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON ALL ICE AND CBP ENFORCEMENT (DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS) TO ALLOW FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND STATES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSES TO THIS PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE. THERE IS NO GREATER WAY TO EXACERBATE TODAY'S CRISIS WITH ICE AND CBP HELL-BENT ON TERRORIZING COMMUNITIES, ACCELERATING DEPORTATIONS, AND INCREASING THE DETAINED POPULATION. INSTEAD, FUNDS AND PERSONNEL SHOULD BE REASSIGNED AND REDEPLOYED TO CDC, FEMA, AND OTHER EMERGENCY NEEDS.
- DISMANTLE THE CAMPS: DISMANTLE IMMIGRANT DETENTION, CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND PROGRAMS SUCH AS MPP THAT EXACERBATE THE PUBLIC HEALTH DANGERS, AND INCLUDE A PLAN TO RETURN INDIVIDUALS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND RECEIVING FAMILIES. IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PROACTIVELY RELEASING THOUSANDS TO THEIR FAMILIES. DHS WAS ALREADY UNABLE TO PROVIDE EVEN BASIC SANITARY CONDITIONS WHILE DEATHS IN THEIR CUSTODY ARE MOUNTING. FORCIBLY KEEPING TENS OF THOUSANDS IN SQUALID CONDITIONS, WHILE ADDING PEOPLE DESPITE THE FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES, IS CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT.

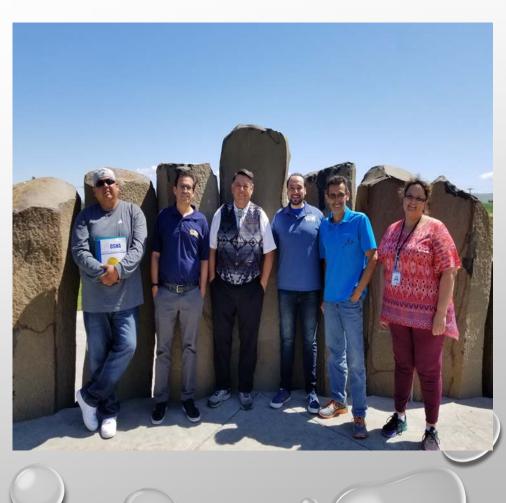
### PLAN FOR WORKER & MIGRANT JUSTICE AS PART OF THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE.

- MEDICINE FOR ALL: EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR HEALTHCARE, TESTING, AND VACCINES MUST BE
  FREELY AVAILABLE TO ALL, INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND FAMILIES. FROM EVERY LEVEL OF
  GOVERNMENT, HEALTHCARE ENTITY, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, WE MUST RESIST DEHUMANIZATION IN
  ALL OF ITS FORMS, AND PROACTIVELY ADDRESS AND CHALLENGE RACIST EXPLOITATION OF THE
  PANDEMIC. STIGMATIZING INDIVIDUALS OR EXCLUDING THEM FROM THE US CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
  WOULD CONSTITUTE BOTH A SERIOUS FLAW IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE AN "ALL HANDS ON DECK" SOCIAL
  EFFORT, AND IT WOULD BE A DARK STAIN ON THE US SOCIETY.
- WORKER PROTECTIONS: POLICIES ON PAID SICK LEAVE AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE OFTEN EXCLUDE
  LOW WAGE IMMIGRANT WORKERS WHETHER EXPLICITLY DUE TO LEGAL STATUS, OR IMPLICITLY THROUGH
  REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO EMPLOYER SIZE AND DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT. WORKER PROTECTION
  POLICIES MUST HAVE BROAD COVERAGE IN ORDER TO PROTECT ALL WORKERS WHO MOST NEED IT,
  ESPECIALLY IN INDUSTRIES SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION, RESTAURANT, POULTRY, AND OTHERS THAT RELY
  ON THE LABOR OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT WORKERS.
- RELIEF PARA EL PUEBLO: SAFETY NET PROGRAMS SUCH AS FOOD STAMPS AND UNEMPLOYMENT
  INSURANCE CAN BE AS INACCESSIBLE AS AIRLINE BAILOUTS TO THE UNDOCUMENTED AND
  POOREST. IMMIGRANT WORKERS AND FAMILIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS EMERGENCY AID
  PROGRAMS WITHOUT FEAR OF RETALIATION OR "PUBLIC CHARGE" REPERCUSSIONS. IMMIGRANT
  WORKER AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION,
  TO ENSURE THAT THIS RELIEF REACHES THE COMMUNITY.



#### PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIVE TRIBES

- 1. OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE LABOR INSTITUTE/UNITED STEELWORKERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BUILT A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN THE AREA AROUND THE HANFORD DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SITE. THE "TERO'S" (TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICES) OF EACH TRIBE (YAKAMA, UMATILLA, NEZ PERCE) ARE COMMITTED TO HAVING THEIR TRIBAL MEMBERS BECOME OSHA TRAINERS AS WELL AS HAZARDOUS WASTE TRAINERS. TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 25 HEALTH & SAFETY TRAININGS AROUND CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND HAZARD MATERIALS HANDLING.
- 2. TRIBAL TRAINERS FOCUS ON HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES THAT ARE
  MOST RELEVANT TO THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS. THIS INCLUDES
  TRAININGS THAT FOCUS ON TRIBAL YOUTH (AS PART OF THEIR LAST
  YEAR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM) AND TRIBAL SITE FACILITY
  WORKERS. THE TRIBES ARE ALSO FORMING THEIR OWN HEALTH AND
  SAFETY COMMITTEES BASED ON THE TRAININGS.



### PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIVE TRIBES

- THE YAKAMA TRIBE CONSIDERS NIEHS/WETP TRAININGS AS NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL TO THEIR EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY, BUT ALSO, AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THEIR JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS. ONE OF THE TRIBE'S GOALS IS TO INTEGRATE THE PROGRAMS INTO THEIR OVERALL TRIBAL LAND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES.
- 4. THE UMATILLA TRIBE RECEIVED A 5-DAY HAZARDOUS WASTE TRAINING AT THEIR CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER, FOLLOWED BY A WHOLE WEEK OF SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING IN PITTSBURGH AT THE UNITED STEELWORKERS HEADQUARTERS. COMBINED, THESE TWO TRAININGS HAVE PRODUCED A GROUP OF TRIBAL TRAINERS THAT ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRAIN MEMBERS IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES. THE UMATILLA ARE INTEGRATING THE TRAININGS INTO THEIR TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENT'S OVERALL PROGRAM OF RESERVATION-WIDE SAFETY.
- THE LABOR INSTITUTE/UNITED STEELWORKERS ARE COMMITTED TO EXPANDING ALL TRIBAL EFFORTS TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL LAST FOR YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.





#### LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

- YEARS OF DISASTER RESPONSE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT LOCAL CAPACITY IS KEY TO TACKLING ANY DISASTER.
- EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND MATERIALS IS KEY TO SUSTAINING PROGRAMS.
- LANGUAGE ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR DISSEMINATION OF PROPER INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES
- AWARENESS OF ALL VULNERABILITIES WITHIN A COMMUNITY SHOULD DICTATE THE TYPE OF RESPONSE TO ANY GIVEN CRISIS



### THANK YOU