



# THE NATIONAL HEP/CAMP ASSOCIATION

Children of agricultural workers face tremendous obstacles in completing high school and pursuing higher education. These students move frequently and these frequent disruptions contribute to a high rate of drop-outs and a low rate of college attendance. For nearly 50 years, the **High School Equivalency Program (HEP)** and the **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** have enabled children of agricultural workers to pursue higher levels of education and secure jobs that allow them to become successful and contributing members of American society.

**HEP** helps students obtain a High School Equivalency Diploma/Credential (HSED) and, subsequently, begin postsecondary education, enter military service, or obtain employment. HEP grantees provide intensive instruction and support to students who have not completed high school.

**CAMP** assists students in successfully completing their first academic year of college and continuing at a postsecondary education institution. CAMP grantees provide academic support, stipends, and other support services necessary to ensure that students succeed in college.

The HEP/CAMP programs are authorized under section 418(A) of the *Higher Education Act* and administered by the United States Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education (OME). Currently, there are over 100 HEP/CAMP projects throughout the country. The U.S. Department of Education awards *competitive* five-year grants to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) or private non-profit organizations that work in cooperation with IHEs. Congress recognized the importance of HEP/CAMP programs when it increased the program's authorization level to \$75 million in the *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA)*.

- **HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS ARE PROVEN EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE:** The High School Equivalency (HSE) passage rates for HEP students are substantially higher than those of other HSE preparation programs, and retention rates for first year students served by the CAMP program are significantly higher than those of most IHEs. During the 2016-2017 project year, **67.5%** of HEP students who completed their course of study earned a HSE or its equivalent. In 2016-2017, **88.2%** of all CAMP participants successfully completed their first year at an IHE (24 credits and in good academic standing) and **96.6%** continued on to their second year in college.
- **HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS ARE UNIQUE AND NOT DUPLICATIVE:** HEP/CAMP programs are the *only* federal programs that help the children of agricultural workers – a unique population of students that face tremendous obstacles – obtain their HSED and pursue higher education.
- **DEMAND FOR HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS:** In grant competitions, the U.S. Department of Education received many more HEP/CAMP grant applications from across the country than available funding. For example, during a recent competition, CAMP received 33 applications and 18 projects were funded and 16 were not. HEP received 29 applications and 16 were funded and 13 were not funded.
- **GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES:** HEP/CAMP projects help students get better jobs and therefore contribute more to the tax base in their community. The HEP/CAMP grant awards to IHEs and non-profit organizations bring jobs and spur economic activity in the local communities where grants are awarded, especially in rural areas where many of these programs are located.

The National HEP/CAMP Association is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of High School Equivalency Programs (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Programs (CAMP) located throughout the United States. For more information, please see our website <http://www.hepcampassociation.org/>



**APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY**

<b>Federal Funding History</b>  (in millions)	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2022 &amp; 2023 President’s Budget Proposal</b>	<b>FY 2023 House Labor HHS Subcommittee</b>
<b>HEP/CAMP</b>	\$46.6	\$48.1	\$66.1	\$58.1

**“The CAMP program has allowed the calluses in my hands to heal and my mind to grow.”**

*Concepción has blossomed from a shy college freshman into an outgoing engineer. After interning at the Texas Department of Transportation for two summers, Concepción received job offers from nine different corporations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, all eager to bring her on board after her graduation. **Concepción Mendoza, Civil Engineering Technology, New Mexico State University CAMP***

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