



PROPOSED STUDY QUESTIONS

H-2A Temporary Farmworker Program



2022 Supplemental Budget

JLARC performance audit of the Employment Security Department's administration of the H-2A Farmworker Visa program.

JLARC also completing two other farmworker-related performance audits.

H-2A Temporary Visa Program

Agricultural employer

- Expects it cannot hire enough U.S. farmworkers.
- Seeks federal approval for temporary foreign farmworkers.

U.S. Dept. of Labor

- Certifies employer applications for H-2A farmworker visas.
- Regulates H-2A employment.

Employment Security Dept. (ESD)

- Supports the Dept. of Labor's H-2A responsibilities.

ESD has three primary H-2A responsibilities

Application Processing

U.S. worker recruitment

Worker housing certification

Prevailing wage and practices surveys

Compliance Monitoring

Farmworker complaints

Employer H-2A compliance

Outreach and Training

Site visits

Coordination with other state agencies

Study will address 6 questions

Study will not evaluate the underlying federal H-2A program and policies.

- 1 | Does ESD administer the H-2A program in compliance with laws?
- 2 | How does ESD recruit U.S. farmworkers for H-2A jobs?
- 3 | Do ESD's activities help to increase employer compliance and/or worker awareness?
- 4 | Does ESD effectively coordinate with other state agencies?
- 5 | What approaches does ESD use to provide culturally responsive interactions?
- 6 | How does ESD's H-2A administration compare with other states?

Next Steps

Preliminary Report

January 2024

Proposed Final Report

April 2024

View the study questions:

www.leg.wa.gov/jlarc



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