

Washington

Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing

The Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing (ORFH) is a private, statewide nonprofit corporation that develops housing for farm workers and other rural, low-income residents of Washington State.

CONTACT:

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ORGANIZATION FACTS:

Web: www.orfh.org
Year Founded: 1979
Location: Yakima, WA
Footprint: State

By the Numbers: (for 2016)

- 165 jobs created
- 103 families assisted
- \$21,200,000 in financing secured

ORFH provides direct development services to local nonprofit corporations, housing authorities, municipalities and others interested in developing affordable housing in rural Washington State. ORFH's primary focus is multi-family rental housing and related facilities such as laundry and tenant/management meeting rooms. ORFH offers all the necessary services to obtain capital financing and assure the quality of both housing construction and management. ORFH also actively works with local partners to preserve existing affordable housing through acquisition and preservation.

ORFH is a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and offers a variety of lending products to further affordable housing in rural Washington State.

Esperanza

Grant County has over 1,500 farms that produce over \$1.76 billion in agricultural products annually. While this is significant economic activity, hard-working farmworker families have very low incomes. Rates of overcrowding are significant and, according to recent market studies, over half of the households in Mattawa have incomes of less than \$35,000 per year and 33% have less than \$25,000 per year. Years ago, cargo containers were converted to temporary housing to serve migrant farmworkers in Grant County, WA. While these units served an emergent need, they were not a long-term solution, and were reaching the limit of their useful life.

To meet the needs of the community and provide safe and affordable housing for the hard-working farmworker families, ORFH worked with the Housing Authority of Grant County to construct Esperanza, which made up of sixteen new affordable housing units in Mattawa, WA. Esperanza is owned and operated by the Housing Authority of Grant County. ORFH provided the comprehensive development services necessary to secure the financing and build this much-needed housing.

Today, Esperanza is a seasonally-occupied development serving the areas farmworkers. Mattawa is located in Grant County, WA. ORFH was able to secure nearly \$3 million from USDA Rural Development Section 514 and 516 farmworker housing programs and over \$1 million in additional funding from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund.

