FY 2026 Programmatic and Language Appropriations Request
Department of Agriculture
Rural Housing Service
Agriculture Appropriations
Farm labor Housing
Request: $25 million for Section 514 loans; $7.5 million for Section 516 grants

Program: Section 514 &516 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, farm labor housing loans and grants.
Bill Language Request: For the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by sections 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), $25 million remain available until expended for direct farm labor housing loans and $7.5 million for domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts.

Justification for Request: Sections 514 and 516 are the only federal programs providing affordable loans and grants to purchase, construct, or repair rental housing for America's farm laborers. There are approximately three million migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States. These essential workers show up to work every day to maintain our domestic food supply. Unfortunately, they also face the greatest housing challenges of all rural people. According to the most recent National Agricultural Workers Survey, 33% of all farmworkers and 45% of migrant farmworkers live in crowded dwellings[1]. Moreover, farmworkers and their families also suffer from poverty. Sixty-one percent of farmworkers earn incomes below the poverty line. Consequently, three out of every five farmworker families live below the federal poverty line. This lack of funding for new on- and off-farm worker housing and increasing demand comes when the farm laborer population becomes more settled. For example, an additional 45,560 farmworker housing units are needed in California to alleviate critical overcrowding in farmworker households[2].

Appropriations Status Sec.514/516

FY 24/25 Final: $15 million/ $ 7.5 million

FY 23: $20 million/$10 million

[1] "National Agricultural Workers Survey." January 2018. https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/naws/pdfs/NAWS_Research_Report_13.pdf

[2] California Institute for Rural Studies, "Farmworker Housing Study and Action Plan For Salinas Valley and Pajaro Valley." June 2018. https://www.cityofsalinas.org/sites/default/files/departments_files/community_development_files/farmworker_housing_study.saslinas-pajaro.june_15-2018.complete.pdf