

Consular Partnership Program

Empowering Foreign Workers, Enforcing Labor Rights

The Consular Partnership Program (CPP), coordinated by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) on behalf of U. S. Department of Labor (DOL) enforcement agencies, strengthens the rights of foreign workers in the U.S. It's a partnership of the DOL with embassies and consulates to ensure foreign workers understand their labor rights, while educating employers on their legal responsibilities.

WORKER PROTECTIONS

All workers in the U.S, regardless of immigration status, are protected by laws enforced by DOL, such as full wage payments under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and workplace safety under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

WHY IT MATTERS

Foreign workers may lack awareness of their rights and fear retaliation. This can lead to exploitation. The CPP educates foreign workers - particularly in low-wage, high-risk sectors - empowering them to claim their rights and fostering fair labor practices.

For employers, compliance ensures fair competition, protecting responsible businesses from being undercut by exploitative practices and promoting a healthier economy.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE CPP

DOL AGENCY PARTNERS:

- Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA);
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA);
- Wage and Hour Division (WHD)

CONSULATE PARTNERS:

- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico

The CPP partners with consulates, leveraging their responsibility to protect nationals abroad to enhance U.S. labor law enforcement. Key commitments of CPP partners include:

- Outreach and education on labor rights.
- Assistance with filing complaints.
- Collaboration to locate workers for wage recovery.
- Training of consular staff on labor laws.
- Sharing information and best practices.

For more information, visit MigrantWorker.gov, and Support From Your Home Country | U.S. Department of Labor (dol.gov).

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