



## California Complete Count – Census 2020 Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project Farmworkers

California's farmworkers present a unique challenge in responding to the 2020 Census. According to the Indigenous Farmworker Study, approximately 46 percent of the farmworkers in the central coast are indigenous migrants from Mexico. These farmworkers have limited English and Spanish proficiency and speak indigenous languages that are primarily oral, including variants of Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui, and Purepecha. Although they have been a vital part of the agricultural and economic success in Ventura county, most live in extreme poverty and lack basic provisions such as adequate housing, food, clothing, and other necessities of life.

The Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) works with the Mixtec and other indigenous immigrant communities by drawing on the community strengths and working through existing barriers. Their outreach in 15 counties is conducted through trusted messengers, *Census Promotoras*, who understand the communal tradition of "tequio" or community obligation, which promotes a spirit of mutual assistance and community building. Through its Radio Indigena, MICOP uses public service announcements to educate farmworkers about the census in Spanish, Mixteco, Zapoteco, and Purepecha. Other activities include developing Mixteco video guides about the Census, promoting the census on social media and phone banking. With the shelter-in-place, they have conducted outreach by farmworker appreciation caravan and including COVID-19 messages in their organizing.

MICOP has contracted with partners that serve indigenous immigrant communities in California:

- Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities serves King City/Greenfield and Monterey County
- Lideras Campesinas en California serves Soledad-Salinas, Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County and the Coachella Valley
- Movimeinto Cultural De La Unión Indígena serves Napa, Sonoma, Mendicino and Yolo Counties
- Radio Bilingüe, the National Latino Radio Network, broadcasts throughout the state

### WEBSITE

<http://mixteco.org/>

### FUNDING ALLOCATION

MICOP – \$521,000

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Victor Espinosa

[Victor.espinosa@mixteco.org](mailto:Victor.espinosa@mixteco.org)

805-483-1166

Emilio Vaca, CA Census Staff Lead

[Emilio.vaca@census.ca.gov](mailto:Emilio.vaca@census.ca.gov) | 916-200-5842