The following is a summary of ideas and themes that came out of a focus group conducted with outreach workers on April 21, 2016.

You talked, we listened.
Here's what you had to say:

What makes getting healthcare for farmworkers difficult?

- Transportation
- Need for more specialty care services (dental, mental, etc)
- Language and cultural barriers
- Outreach workers need more resources
- Differences between farmworkers' expectations and the U.S. healthcare system
- Isolated, large geographic areas

Outreach workers think:
"When it's just you, there's nothing you can do but the best you can do, and that's about it."

How can outreach workers do outreach better?

Gain trust and build relationships!

- Make personal connections
- Become a part of the community
- Learn about their families
- Make home visits
- Teach them about the ACA
- Build relationships with growers
- Listen to what they say
- Go beyond expectations
- Be flexible
- Accommodate them
- Connect them with services
- Bring a provider
Let's talk about **RESEARCH**...

The goal of a farmworker health research network would be to allow farmworkers, outreach workers, and researchers to collaborate and advocate to turn research into action, action into results, and results into advocacy, policy changes, and improved conditions and health for farmworkers.

**What does research usually look like?**

- Research helps us understand farmworkers in different contexts
- Outreach workers are the bridge between farmworkers and researchers
- Researchers make direct requests of outreach workers to participate in research
- Research *always* comes back to the outreach worker

**What goes wrong?**

- Researchers need more help with recruitment
- Some outreach sites are always asked to participate in research, while others are almost never asked
- Outreach workers have limited time; can’t say yes to everything
- Farmers think outreach workers send researchers
- Research in camps can be difficult and feel intrusive
- Research can negatively affect outreach relationships

**How can researchers improve this process?**

- Plan ahead and conduct research during slower parts of the season
- Engage outreach workers early (a season before) and give as much information as possible
- Get to know farmworkers and outreach workers before research begins
- Use outreach workers to establish relationships between researchers and farmworkers
- Provide incentives for farmworkers’ participation (money, traditional food, tools)

**What should new research focus on?**

- How much pesticides are in our bodies?  
- How do pesticides affect having children?  
- How long should we wait to try having children?  
- What are the effects of nicotine from work in tobacco fields?  
- How does farm work impact chronic disease?  
- How do we change farmworkers' diets in a way that fits their lifestyles?  
- How does Zika affect farmworkers?  
- What prevents farmworkers from getting healthcare?  
- Why do farmworkers return year after year?