



# Illinois Agricultural Mental Health Voucher Program

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AgrAbility September Webinar Series

# Background



- Agricultural producers experience **worse mental health** than the general population.
- Additionally, they face **more barriers** to receiving **mental health treatment**.



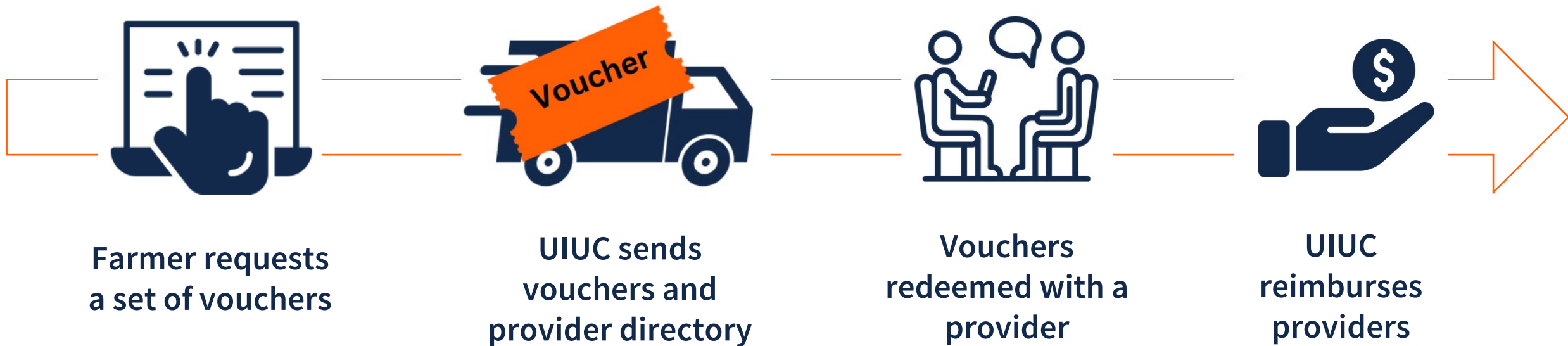
# Illinois Mental Health Voucher Program



- **Goal:** Improve the mental health of agricultural producers by reducing barriers to professional mental health care.
- **The Illinois Agricultural Mental Health Voucher Program:**
  1. Distributes vouchers for free professional behavioral health
  2. Connects producers with providers
  3. Trains providers in agricultural literacy



# Voucher Distribution



# By the numbers



A total of 204 individual voucher request have been made.



35 individuals have made repeat request for vouchers.



306 vouchers have been reimbursed directly to the participating provider.



Of the 204 individuals, 90 of them identify as working directly in agriculture and 110 said they were part of a farming family.



# Partnering Providers

Licensed mental health providers  
from across the state

- 106 providers
- 38 counties (most offer tele-services)
- 2 Spanish-speaking providers



# Agricultural Literacy Training



The training was developed to ensure mental health providers are prepared to work with agricultural clientele. All providers are encouraged to enroll and complete the course.

## The Course:

- Describes unique characteristics of agriculture and agricultural work.
- Identifies common mental health and substance use challenges for agricultural producers.
- Explores strategies for working with farmers and agricultural workers.

# Suggestions for improving provider experience



**“We need to bring it to many, many more rural farmers.”**





# Program Support



	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
	<b>n (%)</b>	<b>n (%)</b>	<b>n (%)</b>	<b>n (%)</b>	<b>n (%)</b>
There is a need among famers for low or no-cost professional behavioral health services.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9(100.0%)
My clinic is supportive of my participation in this program.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9(100.0%)
I believe this program is reaching the correct clientele.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9(100.0%)
This program is meeting a critical need among agricultural producers in my community.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9(100.0%)
I would recommend this program to fellow providers.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9(100.0%)

## Themes hearing among farmer clients

- General depression, anger, anxiety
- Limited access to resources such as counseling
- Marital stress
- Stress on entire family
- Worries about prices of grain/meat production
- Anxiety over instability of income
- Producers not wanting to disappoint their family with their concerns

# Acknowledgements



## *Thank you!*

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- Partnering providers
- Cheyanne Dierickx, Courtney Cuthbertson, Josie M. Rudolphi



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Thank you

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