

# The H-2B Visa Program

## GET THE FACTS

### H-2B Workers in the Landscape Industry

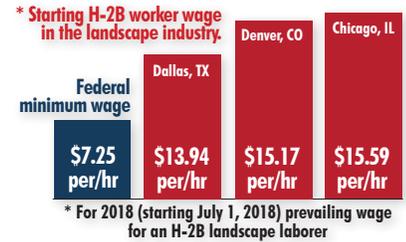
The H-2B program is essential for small and seasonal businesses that cannot fill seasonal jobs with American workers despite extensive recruitment efforts. Seasonal industries that use the H-2B program include seafood processing, horse training, hospitality and amusement parks, forestry, landscaping, circuses, carnivals, food concessionaires, swimming pool maintenance, and stone quarries.

The H-2B program is important to workers. For H-2B workers, the program provides well-paying seasonal jobs that allow them to provide for their families and still maintain their homes in their native countries. This program is also important for American workers whose year round positions are reliant upon seasonal laborers during peak seasons.

The program limits the availability of these visas to only 66,000 per year for the entire United States. Please support legislation that includes the permanent H-2B cap relief and legislation that ensures a usable, stable program that small businesses can rely on to build and grow their businesses.

**MYTH:** H-2B is a source of cheap labor that drives down American wages.

**FACT:** H-2B wages are set by the Department of Labor using prevailing wages. These unskilled labor positions currently pay almost double the federal minimum wage.



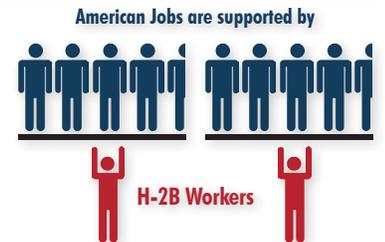
**MYTH:** H-2B is immigration.

**FACT:** H-2B workers fill only temporary seasonal positions. They can only work up to 10 months and must go back to their home country. These are LEGAL seasonal workers who are filling temporary seasonal positions only.



**MYTH:** Use of the H-2B visa program adds to local unemployment.

**FACT:** Each H-2B visa supports 4.64 American jobs. Employers can hire more American's in full-time supervisory and support roles if they have a reliable source of seasonal labor.



**MYTH:** H-2B workers take Americans' jobs.

**FACT:** H-2B was created to fill seasonal, temporary jobs most Americans don't want. (Landscaping, hospitality, amusement parks, hotels, etc.) Employers must make every attempt to fill positions domestically, going through an extensive recruiting process - verified by the Department of Labor - to be sure openings can't be filled with American workers. They are required to hire every eligible American at prevailing wage - the same pay rate received by H-2B guest workers.



**MYTH:** H-2B workers put a strain on American social services.

**FACT:** H-2B workers do not bring their families. H-2B workers and their employers pay all the same payroll taxes that are paid for American workers, including Social Security.



**MYTH:** H-2B hurts the local economy.

**FACT:** H-2B workers fill unskilled seasonal positions that Americans do not want, allowing local businesses to grow, purchase more materials & equipment, and hire more American workers. While in America, workers buy groceries, clothing, rent apartments, and more to support the local economy.



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