

# *Start Job Training for Migrants*

One of the most ambitious programs ever undertaken in Chicago's suburbs is underway to help migrant workers learn to work and live in American communities.

Pre-vocational and literacy classes already have started in Mount Prospect under a program designed to recruit, train, and place Mexican-Americans in a variety of jobs. As many as 75 persons are expected to attend courses this week.

The educational program is financed by part of an \$860,354 federal grant to the Illinois Migrant council, Cay Santiago, council project director, said the program, which could handle 500 persons, will be limited to from 55 to 100 available foreign workers in the Northwest suburban area.

About 76 persons are in the training program in Chicago Heights and the council will have similar projects for Joliet and Libertyville in the near future, he said.

Under the program, a head of household with dependents will receive \$60 per week if he enrolls in classes six hours a day, five days a week for 20 weeks. If he attends 4-hour night courses, his training will continue for 30 weeks.

A single adult receives \$20 per week under the program. The maximum a family gets is \$65.

Santiago explained the stipends are designed to give incentive to people to attend the classes. This is a supplement to income from part-time work.

He said several industrial

leaders already have expressed a willingness to hire the workers on full-time basis after their training ends.

One big problem which remains to be solved is the provision of decent housing for the low-income families.

The Migrant council recently found 13 rental housing units in the Northwest suburban area for those enrolled in the training program, Santiago said. But the workers still have to pay for them out of their meager incomes.

Community and church leaders hope to get supplemental money from the Cook County Housing authority or the State Housing board to purchase homes for Mexican-American families.

The Rev. J. Ward Morrison of the Queen of the Rosary Catholic church, Elk Grove Village, recently gave the County Housing authority names of two families to be used as test cases for granting such funds.

He and others working on the housing problem informed the authority on the families' present substandard housing, potential new housing, the amount families have for down pay-

ment, and their potential monthly payment.

The families involved have more than three children and the head of the family works in an industrial job.

The commissioners of the County Housing authority will meet Thursday to study the possibility of developing a housing project on a nonprofit basis for sale or rental to the migrant families.

Henry Thomas, assistant executive director of the authority, said the commissioners will try to determine first if it is legally possible to undertake such a project.

Richard Blakley of the Illinois State Housing board said low-rent public housing must be within incorporated areas, but many residents are reluctant to have low-rent housing developed in their neighborhoods.

He said, however, that Illinois needs additional workers in every field.

Blakley emphasized that he urged the interested citizen groups to cooperate with real estate authorities and finance companies to work out their own financing.