

Preface & Credits

The development of the Finanza materials was made possible by a grant from the New York State Banking Department awarded to the Geneseo Migrant Center, Inc. Financial education and introduction to banking products for un-banked populations are the hallmarks of the Banking Department's funding initiatives. Congruent with this focus, the goal of the Finanza (Financial Education for Migrant Farmworker Students/Youth) project is to decrease the financial vulnerability of the migrant farmworker population and provide them with access to financial information prepared to meet their unique needs. Ultimately, as a result of access to the project materials and activities, migrant farmworker participants will acquire knowledge about how to keep their money safe, an opportunity they would be unlikely to receive in any other way.

A talented team of individuals contributed to the development of the Finanza materials. Donna Spence, Coordinator, Brockport Migrant Education Outreach Program (MEOP), researched financial education information and wrote the materials content. Pilot workshops were conducted by Keri Donlon who followed up with suggestions for fine tuning the instructional activities. Rene Kelly, Graphic Designer, Genesee Valley BOCES, created the master design for the topic materials and Jason March formatted workshop materials. The content and activities were translated into Spanish by Felisa Brea, Associate Professor, SUNY Geneseo, and proofed by Jan Montanye-Castillo, Medical/Dental Coordinator, Geneseo Migrant Center.

The FINANZA Toolbox Materials are available at www.migrant.net by clicking on the Publications followed by clicking on *The FINANZA Toolbox*. It is a privilege to make the Finanza materials available to migrant farmworkers and the programs that serve them.

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Finanza Toolbox Materials

Finanza Toolbox Materials

- ✓ *Using Banks in the United States*
- ✓ *Your Budget*
- ✓ *Savings Accounts*
- ✓ *Checking Accounts*
- ✓ *Money Orders*
- ✓ *Credit Cards, Debit Cards and ATM Cards*
- ✓ *Bank Loans*
- ✓ *Pros & Cons of "Home Furnishings to Rent" Stores*

Finanza Toolbox Materials

Developed by the Geneseo Migrant Center Inc. • Geneseo, NY 14454

*with funding from the
New York State Banking Department*



Use of the Finanza Materials & Activities

Introduction:

Migrant farmworkers are financially vulnerable due to mobility, language barriers, geographic isolation and incomplete identity documents. Their financial knowledge is very limited and they know little about banking options in the United States. Thus, farmworkers carry out their financial business on a cash basis preferring to hold their money in their pocket or stashing it in their residences. It is not unusual to hear of farmworkers being robbed or losing money to unsavory persons in an effort to manage their finances.

Finanza is designed to increase the financial education level of farmworkers and offer practical money management information via a service delivery model that meets their work schedules, educational levels and language needs.

The topical content of the Finanza materials was identified as a result of focus group discussions that explored the financial knowledge and experiences of participating farmworkers. Topics selected are anticipated to overcome financial knowledge deficits and dispel the myriad of myths regarding financial transactions and institutions that emerged in the focus groups. Finanza materials are developed for use with migrant farmworker students, youth and adults. This range of participants might include children as young as elementary school to adults of any age.

Finanza Toolbox Materials Overview

Finanza Toolbox Contents	
Material	Description
Toolbox Topics (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using Banks in the United States Your Budget Savings Accounts Checking Accounts Money Orders Credit Cards, Debit Cards and ATM Cards Bank Loans Pros & Cons of “Home Furnishings to Rent” Stores 	Toolbox topics address eight financial education needs in a side-by-side English/Spanish format. The content includes a rationale for use of the product, how the product works and a “New Words to Remember” sidebar. Adequate content is provided to introduce and teach the topic.
Workshop Outlines (8)	For the instructor/educator, the Workshop Outline provides a step-by-step description of activities to introduce, teach, practice and assess the learning of one topic. Instructor materials needed, Finanza materials required and workshop guidelines are listed.
Pre/Post Surveys (8)	Workshop participants are required to respond to a Pre/Post Workshop survey as a requirement of the project. The surveys, assessing financial skills sets regarding the topic, are provided in a bilingual format.
Skills Practice Worksheet (8)	Activities for workshop participants to practice and reinforce the topic content and how a product works are provided in a bilingual format with space for computations and narrative answers.

Tips for Use

- Prepare for workshops by reviewing the Toolbox content information. Request guidance or seek additional information if the content is unclear.
- Use the Finanza materials with one or multiple participants. One-on-one instruction or group instruction may be conducted.
- Use the Finanza materials with a range of ages. As the Finanza content can be presented in mini-lessons (30 – 60 minutes) it is particularly appropriate for Out-of-School Youth activities and other groups with limited time available for instructional support.
- Conduct the workshops in English or Spanish. Use the language which will ensure understanding of the content and activities.
- Review the Workshop Outline keeping in mind the age, educational background and interest of the workshop participants. Anticipate how the workshop activities might be modified to meet different needs and skills levels.
- Provide copies of the following workshop materials to all participants: Toolbox Topic, Pre/Post Survey, Skills Practice Worksheet. The Workshop Outlines are for instructors only.
- Provide the Using Banks in the United States content before conducting the banking products (e.g., Savings Accounts, Bank Money Orders) workshops to increase the participants’ understanding of banking in the United States and anticipate banking requirements such as picture identification. With this exception, the workshops may be conducted in any order. However, workshops should be selected based on the interests and experiences of the participants if known.
- Anticipate the need to conduct the Pre/Post Surveys and Skills Practice activities orally to accommodate the literacy levels and educational experiences of the participants. Reports from pilot workshops indicate that writing answers to survey questions and worksheet problems was difficult, even in their first language for many participants.
- Expect considerable interest in the information. Be prepared to receive many questions regarding the topic and, in addition, questions about related financial matters. Record questions that are not germane to the topic or that need research to obtain the answers. Address questions and/or provide answers at a later workshop or through the Migrant Education Outreach Program staff.