

From: Kika de la Garza, M C

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WASHINGTON--Migratory children in 18 Hidalgo and Cameron County school districts will be educated under a \$2,547,715 grant which will also be used for training teachers in this program, Rep Kika de la Garza announced today.

This program will be operated in the Brownsville, Harlingen, La Feria, San Benito, Santa Rosa, Donna, Edcouch-Elsa, Edinburg, Palm Garden, Relampago, Runn, Valley View, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, Progreso, and Weslaco school districts.

The two Valley counties receive the bulk of the grant which covers nine South Texas counties. 19,629 elementary and 1,741 secondary school children will benefit from the program. It will start September 1, 1967 and end August 31, 1968, de la Garza said. The training will cover health, welfare and food services as well as the cost of educational materials, according to the Valley Congressman.

Rep de la Garza has been pushing this type program for a long time. As author of legislation in the Texas House of Representatives to provide English courses for pre-school Spanish speaking children, de la Garza strongly supports these educational innovations in the House of Representatives.

This new grant will focus on teaching English as a second language--a continuance, de la Garza pointed out, of the project he pioneered years ago in the Texas legislature.

In addition to the English teaching, this new migrant course will provide remedial teaching in all subject matter areas. Out of the whole grant there will be \$92,364 for training teachers.

This grant's operation will be restricted to children of migratory agricultural workers. It will operate during the time the families are home based in Texas. Rep de la Garza said he had supported the Elementary and Secondary School Act which authorizes this migrant project. The Texas Education Agency will administer the program in Texas.