



# 50 Years Advancing Safe Jobs, Healthy Lives & Worker Justice

1974 - 2024

**LOHP** Safe Jobs.  
Healthy Lives.

LABOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Dear friends:

At LOHP, we have spent the past year looking back over our 50 years of work, and looking forward.

In 1974, LOHP was established to train union workers about the recently passed OSHA law. Since then, we have developed multilingual training programs in industries that range from agriculture to construction, industrial laundry to home care, partnering with unions, worker centers and community-based organizations to educate workers about health and safety and their right to dignified and safe employment.

In 2020, LOHP mobilized an emergency response to protect workers at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the years we have empowered immigrant workers and young workers to understand their rights on the job and take action. We engaged in community-based research and mentored the next generation of public health leaders, bringing the resources of the university to address worker and community concerns. We partnered with unions to address health and safety in collective bargaining and we built worker power through training for collective action, starting from workers' own experience and expertise.

And now, we are grateful for the strength of our collective movement. Together we have laid critical groundwork for worker health and safety that we will lean on to build new structures and initiatives to protect workers moving forward. We draw inspiration and fuel from the worker leaders in this movement, from our research partners and from our advocacy and community partners.

As we look ahead, we will be guided by our core organizational values in our work to address emergent and urgent threats to workers' health. We will continue to be worker-centered and partnership-driven, to focus on worker communities most at risk, and to ground our work in evidence-based best practices. We are committed to promoting safe and healthy jobs for everyone, because work should not result in loss of life, fewer years of life, living with pain or illness, or diminished quality of life.

This year brings change to LOHP, as Laura Stock has retired as director after a 42-year career. Laura leaves a lasting legacy in our movement that will be celebrated this spring. As I take on this new role as director, I am so grateful for our incredible staff who bring a deep commitment to public health and workers' rights.

We stand in solidarity with you for the ongoing work of our movement towards the vision of a world where all workers are safe, healthy and have jobs that are dignified and just.

We look forward to our work together in 2025. We are ready.



**Suzanne Teran**  
Director, LOHP





# 50 Years Fighting for Safe Jobs Together

1970

President Nixon signs the Occupational Safety and Health Act.



1974

LOHP launches to support the California labor movement in understanding and exercising their rights under this new law.



1987

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences establishes a training program to protect workers from hazardous materials. LOHP leads in developing Spanish-language training and low-literacy materials, becoming a resource for unions across the country.



1996

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health funds LOHP as a resource center to address and protect young workers' health and safety.



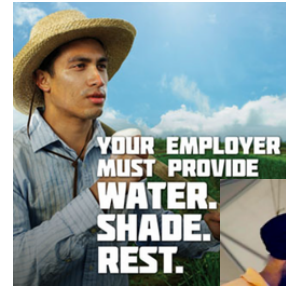
2001

LOHP, with UCLA LOSH, is a founding center of the newly established Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP) and develops worker leadership trainings and trainings for small businesses to prevent injury and illness.



2010

LOHP works with Cal/OSHA to develop a multilingual campaign to protect workers from heat illness. Resources are used widely to educate workers, employers and community organizations about the right to water, rest, and shade.



2020

LOHP supports workers, unions, and community-based organizations to demand better protections for workers' health during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Today

LOHP runs multilingual training programs, provides technical assistance and conducts community-based research and policy analysis to address the risks to workers from a changing world.



# Program Highlights



## Empowering **young workers** to stand up for safe workplaces

Our [online hub](#) and [Young Worker Leadership Academy](#) teach youth about workplace health and safety issues and their labor rights. Each year we hold a 3-day leadership training for teens and coordinate the May is Safe Jobs for Youth Month campaign.



## Community-based **research** on working conditions of retail food workers

We partnered with the County of Santa Clara's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) and local community organizations to conduct a survey to document the issues facing retail food workers.



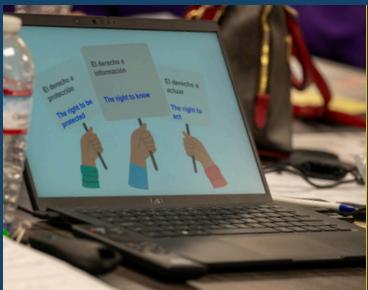
## Interviewing **swine industry workers** about conditions on the job

We joined the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health on a large study to understand how increasing the speed of the pork processing line impacted worker health and safety. LOHP staff were part of a team of researchers who visited plants to interview workers and observe conditions.



## Growing **union capacity** to protect workers from extreme heat

With support from the California Department of Public Health, we are training workers and union staff across industries (warehouse, industrial laundry, transportation) to understand their rights under California's new [Indoor Heat Standard](#).



## Labor rights **curriculum** for high school educators

After a new law (AB800) was passed in California requiring high schools to teach labor rights, LOHP developed resources and new curricula for youth on [labor rights](#) and labor history.



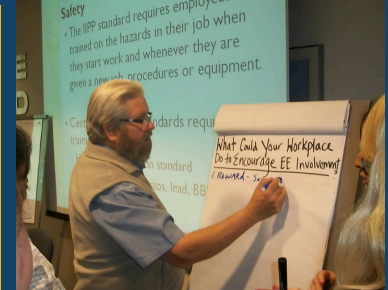
## Getting **information** to farmworkers on safer working conditions

Through the COVID-19 Workplace Outreach Project, we collaborated with Ayudando a Latinos a Soñar in Half Moon Bay to support farmworkers to prevent ergonomic pain and exposures to pesticides and other chemicals.



## Training workers in **disaster preparedness**

LOHP developed community-based programs in English and Spanish to train workers in disaster preparedness and emergency response. This includes a new pocket guide for workers with information on how to protect themselves from wildfire smoke.



## Training **small businesses** to protect their employees

LOHP provided resources to small business employers to develop effective Injury and Illness Prevention Programs. LOHP's training equips small businesses to solve common health and safety problems at work and prevent injuries.



# BERTHA SERVÍN

“My coworkers have asthma, coughs. No one is reporting anything.”

In LOHP’s class I learned that I have the right to an explanation from the company on what kind of chemicals they are using and how they are affecting the workers.”

**Bertha Servín** works at a large industrial laundry in Chino, Calif. Servín and her coworkers work long shifts processing linens for hospitals and hotels. They work with large machines steaming napkins or nurses’ uniforms, pushing heavy carts that weigh over 500 lbs.

In Chino it can regularly get up to 118 degrees in the summer months and building coolers don’t do much to cool down the warehouse. Servín is a shop steward with her union, Workers United, and attended worker



leadership training through LOHP’s [WOSHTEP program](#) where she learned about her rights under the law.

Now Servín is sharing what she learned with other workers and helping to organize health and safety committees to address key hazards of concern, including heat, ergonomics and chemicals.



**Elijah Placides** is a student at San Jose University. He came to the US from the Philippines at age 14. This year he participated in the Occupational Health Summer Internship Program (OHIP) through LOHP. OHIP helps young people learn about the field of occupational safety and health from those with most at stake: working people.

Placides worked with the Pilipino Association of Workers and Immigrants (PAWIS) to interview

# ELIJAH PLACIDES

“My mom was also a caregiver. She experienced the same thing a lot of caregivers we interviewed face: understaffing, abuse, injury and isolation.”

caregivers at residential facilities in Santa Clara County to better understand their working conditions. After this experience, Placides plans to major in public health. As a Pilipino immigrant himself, participating in the project helped Placides reconnect to the Pilipino community, his family, and to see pathways forward to fight for change.

# GUILLERMINA CASTELLANOS

“LOHP’s training has been fundamental to developing the political power of domestic workers.

It wasn't just that LOHP came, but they supported workers themselves to take leadership. They empowered us to achieve change in health and safety.”

As a domestic worker, **Guillermina Castellanos** experienced the effects of cleaning with toxic chemicals. She knows workers who were injured on the job from falls or lifting elderly patients. And, as the climate crisis intensifies, she knows workers who are being asked to clean up after wildfires, inhaling ash and getting sick.



Castellanos worked closely with LOHP to develop peer leader training so domestic workers themselves can engage in training others on how to work safely and speak to their employers to negotiate for the supplies and support they need. She collaborated with LOHP to develop a campaign to elevate the dignity and power of domestic workers and to communicate domestic work as a critical component of our economy.



# SADIE COSTELLO

“I've had the privilege to partner with LOHP on research projects. During the COVID lockdown, we partnered with UFCW to look at grocery store workers and their protections against COVID. That work had an immediate influence on standards.

This year, we partnered with Santa Clara County and community organizations to look at working conditions and wage theft among fast food and restaurant workers.”

**Sadie Costello**, PhD, MPH  
Associate Director, Northern California Center for Occupational and Environmental Health



# KIMBERLY ALVARENGA



“We were very fortunate that LOHP was chosen to help develop policy guidance. Their knowledge about the industry and deep understanding of low-wage immigrant workers and the everyday issues that they face is invaluable.”

For many years the California Domestic Workers Coalition has been fighting to remove the exclusion of household domestic workers and day laborers from labor law and ensure they have the same basic health and safety protections that other workers enjoy.

In 2021 Cal/OSHA established a committee—mandated by SB321—made up of employers, workers (nannies, house cleaners, caregivers, day laborers), advocates, and health and safety experts to develop voluntary guidelines on health and safety and policy recommendations to strengthen the health and safety protections of household workers. LOHP was chosen to facilitate that process.

**Kimberly Alvarenga**, the director at California Domestic Workers Coalition said that giving workers information about health and safety helps build power over the long term.

With LOHP’s support and leadership, the committee’s work resulted in the first in the nation voluntary industry guidelines for people who employ domestic workers. The guidelines outline best practices to prevent injury and illness. The committee also produced a policy report with strategies that would protect the health and safety of domestic workers and day laborers. In 2024, Governor Newsom signed a bill that finally extends health and safety protections to a portion of these workers—more than 175,000 who are hired by agencies.



**LOHP STAFF 2024**

# Protecting our Future



## Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

Our programs protect young workers and ensure we are **building a pipeline** for careers in public health, worker health and the workers' rights movement.

We provide **internships** and **research opportunities for students** to gain hands-on experience with worker organizations on current issues of concern.

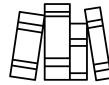
We teach a **graduate school class** at UC Berkeley on Social Justice and Worker Health. We are a host site for the Occupational Health Internship Program, provide training at UC Berkeley's Labor Summer, and host a training for young people from around the state in Berkeley each year.



Research Opportunities & Internships



Young Worker Leadership Academy



University Courses



Mentoring Programs



# Fighting for Safe Jobs in a Changing World



## Our programs **respond to urgent and emergent threats to workers' health:**



Technology and changes to the structure of work



Extreme weather events



Workplace violence

In 2025 and in the years to come, LOHP remains committed to addressing the needs of **worker communities most at risk** and eliminating the disparities at the intersection of work and health.

We continue to collaborate with worker and community organizations, research, employer and agency partners to strengthen capacity to address working conditions and advocate for strong health and safety protections for all workers. **Join us.**

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