

***TNLA Member Alert* U.S. DOL to Investigate Landscape Industry Employers Use of H-2B Program**

As of yesterday, the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) is announcing a new effort to investigate the users of the H-2B seasonal worker visa program, with a special focus on the landscape sector. The landscape sector is the largest user of H-2B visas, both across the United States and in Texas.

The Department press release states the new effort's purpose –

“This initiative demonstrates our commitment to educate employers about those rules and enforce them to safeguard American jobs, protect guest workers, and level the playing field for law-abiding employers.”

*Last year, WHD investigations found more than \$105 million in back wages for more than 97,000 workers in industries with a high prevalence of H-2B workers, including the landscaping industry. A **key component of the investigations is ensuring that employers recruit U.S. workers before applying for permission to employ temporary nonimmigrant workers.**”*

Landscape will not be the only sector targeted by the Department of Labor. The WHD announced on Sept. 5th a similar initiative for the hotel and resort industry. A portion of the investigations are being said to be educational in purpose by providing employers with tools to utilize in order to ensure better compliance.

TNLA remains actively engaged alongside our national partners in monitoring the ongoing nature of this new initiative and we will update our members as more information becomes available.

For the full Department of Labor press release please click here: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20180912>

If you are interested in receiving future emails from TNLA on H-2B related news and events please email Ryan Skrobarczyk at Ryan@tnlaonline.org.