“It has changed a lot for the community because the people are more comfortable. [Vanpool] is safer. An accident or something, you have better [insurance]. And of course if people bring their own cars, people will charge you $10 a ride.”

- Rafaela

California Vanpool (CalVans) Expansion

Each day, agricultural workers in the Central Valley travel an hour or more to harvest and tend to fields of peaches, nectarines, tomatoes, and other crops that become food for families across the state and the country. Rafaela, Coronado, and Leobardo are three of these workers, and they commute using CalVans program. They drive a van, bringing themselves and about a dozen of their colleagues the work sites for the day.

CalVans received funding in the first round of AHSC, which was used to replace and expand their van fleet for agricultural workers in Fresno and Tulare Counties by purchasing 80 new vans. These vans meet a critical need for workers, who would otherwise need to rent private vans at their own cost or each bring their personal car to the sites. The new vans are more efficient and come equipped with navigation systems. CalVans also provides maintenance and road-side assistance for drivers to ensure the safety of drivers and riders. As Coronado explained, "I can call them with any problem . . . that’s what I also like the most about the program because I don’t have to fix things. If I puncture a tire, well, I just call them and they quickly bring me another one of the vans . . . They’re there to help you.”