

# Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth

## Scenario 1: All undocumented immigrants

### Who is eligible under this scenario?

Under this scenario, all undocumented immigrants would be eligible for immediate legalization and a five-year path toward naturalization. The model includes all undocumented workers along with Dreamers, regardless of work status. The authors estimate that 7.7 million of the 10.2 million undocumented individuals eligible for protection using 2019–2020 CPS data were either employed in the year prior to the COVID-19 crisis or were Dreamers.<sup>1</sup>

### Short-run impacts (implementation to year five):

**\$4,300** (10%)

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

### Long-run impacts (year five to year 10):

**\$14,000** (32.4%)

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

**\$1.7 trillion**

Total cumulative GDP increase through the decade

**\$700** (1.1%)

Increase in annual wages of all other workers

**438,800**

Total number of new jobs created

*Note: See “Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth” for full methodology.*

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> In using the average of 2019 and 2020 CPS ASEC data, this model factors economic growth surrounding the undocumented immigrant population who were employed in the year leading up to the COVID-19 crisis as well as Dreamers when modeling economic effects. Dreamers are included regardless of their work status, as they are younger on average than other undocumented immigrants and may join the workforce as they age. Additionally, previous research finds that DACA recipients, similar in characteristics to Dreamers more broadly, are likely to pursue additional education and work opportunities after similar protections. See Tom K. Wong and others, “New DHS Policy Threatens To Undo Gains Made by DACA Recipients,” Center for American Progress, October 5, 2020, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2020/10/05/491017/new-dhs-policy-threatens-undo-gains-made-daca-recipients/>.