

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

## *Scenario 2: Undocumented immigrants working in essential roles*

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### Who is eligible under this scenario?

Under this scenario, all undocumented immigrants working in essential jobs, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), would be eligible to legalize immediately and access a pathway to citizenship after five years.<sup>1</sup> The authors estimate that 5 million undocumented individuals are eligible for protection using 2019–2020 CPS data.

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

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

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

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

**\$11,800** (27.3%)

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

**\$989 billion**

Total cumulative GDP increase through the decade

**\$300** (0.5%)

Increase in annual wages of all other workers

**203,200**

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> Based on Christopher C. Krebs, “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-10 Response: Version 4.0” (Washington: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, 2020), available at [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version\\_4.0\\_CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workers\\_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf). For a list of occupations and industries included, please see the methodological appendix of Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, “Protecting Undocumented Workers on the Pandemic’s Front Lines: Immigrants Are Essential to America’s Recovery” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2020), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2020/12/02/493307/protecting-undocumented-workers-pandemics-front-lines/>.