The High Stake in Immigration Reform for Our Communities | Bay Area

How many and who is affected?
There are 387,000 undocumented Californians in the Bay Area.
That’s 6% of residents, 7% of adults, and 7% of the workforce.

1 in 8 of all Bay Area kids have at least one undocumented parent.
76% of kids with an undocumented parent are citizens – that’s 135,000 children or 9.6% of the Bay Area’s kids.

How will the economic impact be good for the Bay Area’s economy?
Authorization with a roadmap to citizenship would bring an $803 million-$1.4 billion boost in the annual income of the currently undocumented.
This will result in, for example, more clothes for the kids, higher end purchases at the grocery store, and eventual home purchases. Lower-income undocumented Californians will cause these ripple effects that grow local economies because they are more likely to spend than save.

Authorization with a roadmap to citizenship would yield a 14-25% boost in income.
Boosts are based on studies that take into consideration other factors influencing income gains.

This would benefit the Bay’s kids since 53% of kids with an undocumented parent live in poverty.
This is compared to the 16% poverty rate for kids with US-born parents in the Bay Area.

Why does citizenship matter?
Citizen immigrants typically outperform other immigrants and the US-born.
Statewide and regional bodies on integration will be needed to increase naturalization, among other things.

What should happen the day after reform?
Resources for immigrant integration need to be included in reform and should be targeted to areas that will make immigrants more productive:

- English Language Instruction: Only 49% speak English well but there is a great desire to learn.
- Health Insurance: Only 53% of working-age undocumented immigrants have health insurance.
- Adult Education: 54% of the undocumented are in need of high school education and beyond.

Getting reform right will help us get the Bay Area’s future right.

DATA FROM WHAT’S AT STAKE FOR THE STATE: UNDOCUMENTED CALIFORNIANS, IMMIGRATION REFORM, AND OUR FUTURE TOGETHER; FOR THE FULL RESEARCH BRIEF, VISIT CSII.USC.EDU