The High Stake in Immigration Reform for Our Communities | Kern County

How many and who is affected?

**There are 68,000 undocumented Californians in Kern County.**
That’s 8% of residents, 10% of adults, and 11% of the workforce.

**More than 1 in 6 Kern kids have at least one undocumented parent.**
83% of kids with an undocumented parent are citizens – that’s 37,000 children or 15% of the county’s kids.

How will the economic impact be good for Kern County’s economy?

**Authorization with a roadmap to citizenship would bring a $95-$164 million 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 Kern County’s kids since 74% of kids with an undocumented parent live in poverty.**
This is compared to the 39% poverty rate for kids with US-born parents in Kern County.

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 36% speak English well but there is a great desire to learn.
- Health Insurance: Only 36% of working-age undocumented immigrants have health insurance.
- Adult Education: 79% of the undocumented are in need of high school education and beyond.

Getting reform right will help us get Kern County’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**