

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The median number of years an undocumented Kern resident has been in the country is 10 years.

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.

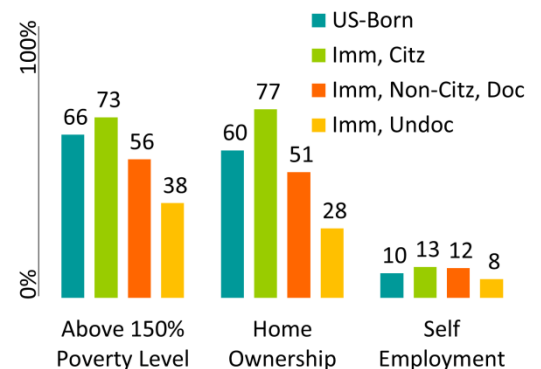
THIS WOULD BENEFIT KERN COUNTY'S KIDS SINCE 74% OF KIDS WITH AN UNDOCUMENTED PARENT LIVE IN POVERTY.

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.

