

Driver's Licenses for the Undocumented Make New York Stronger

Granting licenses for undocumented New Yorkers boosts public safety and grows the economy

Granting driver's licenses to undocumented New Yorkers will make every New Yorker safer on the roads, will help provide stability for hardworking families, and will generate millions in new revenue for the state.

Public safety improves for everyone – immigrants and citizens alike – when all drivers can pass a variety of written knowledge and road tests, become licensed, and purchase insurance. For example, since the state of New Mexico passed legislation in 2003 that granted licenses to undocumented residents, the state has experienced significant drops in both its traffic fatality rate and the rate of uninsured vehicles traveling on its roads.

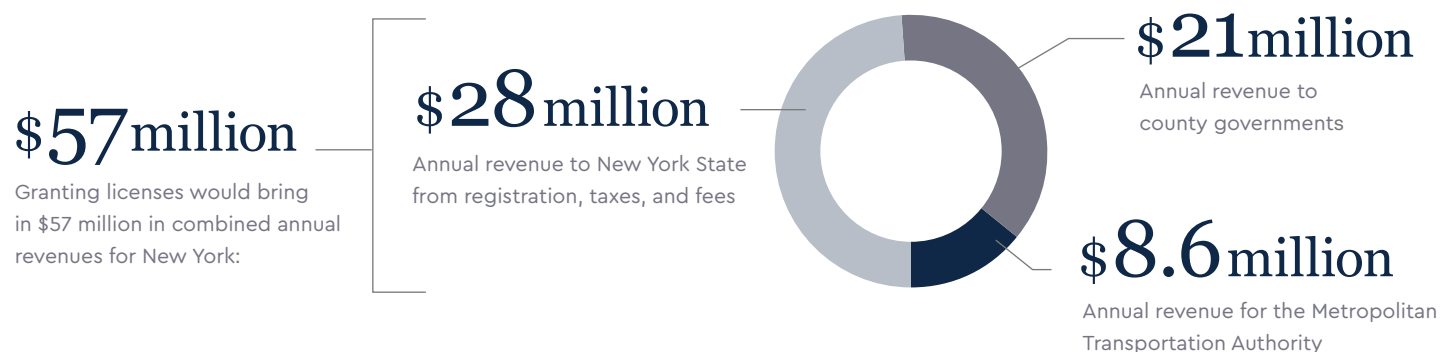
ISSUING LICENSES TO UNDOCUMENTED NEW YORKERS WOULD INCREASE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FAMILIES.

Providing licenses would help make it easier for undocumented immigrants to open bank accounts, pay taxes, and secure better jobs. Licenses are particularly important for workers in suburban and rural areas without readily available public transportation options; this is critical for New York's agricultural sector. Adding thousands of insured drivers to New York's roads would also decrease auto insurance premiums for all drivers. And providing licenses would boost the auto-sales industry: New Yorkers would purchase and register an estimated 97,000 additional new cars within three years, boosting sales in the auto industry by 2.7%.

PROVIDING LICENSES MAKES GOOD ECONOMIC SENSE FOR NEW YORK.

If the state were to expand access to driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, it would receive an estimated \$57 million in combined annual revenues and \$26 million in one-time revenues.

Licensing 150,000 undocumented immigrants in New York City alone would generate up to \$9.6 million in driver's license fees for the state, and an additional \$1.3 million in license fees would go to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).



Failure to grant licenses to the undocumented hurts families, public safety, and New York's economy

FAILING TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CONTINUES TO PUSH FAMILIES - INCLUDING MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES WITH U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN OR DOCUMENTED FAMILY MEMBERS - INTO THE SHADOWS.

The Trump Administration has made all undocumented immigrants a priority for deportation; this harmful change has increased the risk of undocumented individuals being put into deportation proceedings merely from routine traffic stops.

Expanding access to driver's licenses will allow law enforcement officers to concentrate on true public safety priorities, instead of wasting time and resources bringing unlicensed drivers to stations for booking.

Importantly, limiting access to driver's licenses stunts economic mobility—which hurts all New Yorkers, immigrants and citizens alike. Undocumented New Yorkers collectively pay more than \$1.1 billion taxes to the city and state annually. However, because they are not legally able to drive, many individuals are hindered from contributing fully to the state's economy. Granting undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses would allow them to seek better opportunities and help promote financial inclusion.

“A driver’s license can create so many opportunities for a family: a chance to access a better job, school district, or home. New Yorkers shouldn’t have to wait any longer for better public safety and more economic opportunities. The time is now for driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants.”

PAMELA CHOMBA, DIRECTOR OF STATE IMMIGRATION CAMPAIGNS, FWD.US

265,000

undocumented New Yorkers could obtain driver's licenses within three years

97,000

additional cars could be purchased or registered within three years, representing a 2.7% sales increase in the auto industry

\$ 1.1 billion

Amount of city and state taxes undocumented New Yorkers contribute each year. If they were able to legally drive, this would allow them to seek better opportunities, promote economic mobility, and allow even greater financial contributions.