

Immigrants Make West Virginia Stronger

An estimated 34,000 immigrants live in West Virginia.

About 2,000 immigrants in West Virginia work in STEM-related jobs, of which 35% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 13% of STEM degree holders in West Virginia are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost West Virginia's communities. Some 15,000 immigrants, or about 44% of all immigrants in West Virginia, are U.S. citizens. About 7,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 4,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 16,000 of individuals in West Virginia are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 3,000 U.S. citizen children in West Virginia live with an undocumented parent, while some 2,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 4,000 undocumented individuals in West Virginia have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 2,000 of those living in the U.S. for more than 20 years.

Dreamers—undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children before 2021 and are either in school or have graduated from high school—number 1,000 and contribute \$2 million annually to West Virginia's economy.

An estimated 1,000 immigrants in West Virginia are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$27 million to West Virginia's economy annually.

Immigrant groups currently protected from deportation—DACA recipients, TPS holders, people seeking asylum, and those waiting for a permanent residency visa—have access to work authorizations, making up an estimated 1,000 workers in West Virginia's labor force.

\$1.4 billion

Annual spending power

\$400 million

Annual combined taxes paid

3,000

Self-employed

25%

With college or advanced degrees

95%

Speak English

83%

Earn above the minimum needed to live