

Immigrants Make NC-12 Stronger

*An estimated **179,000** immigrants live in NC-12, making up **22%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **22%** of households in NC-12.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of NC-12's economy. Some 24% of NC-12's labor force are immigrants, including 59% of the construction industry, 20% of agriculture, 25% of manufacturing, 25% of business services, and 26% of leisure and hospitality.

About 11,000 immigrants in NC-12 work in STEM-related jobs, of which 48% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 31% of STEM degree holders in NC-12 are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost NC-12's communities. Some 41,000 immigrants, or about 23% of all immigrants in NC-12, are U.S. citizens. About 25,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 15,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 19% of individuals in NC-12, or some 156,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 30,000 U.S. citizen children in NC-12 live with an undocumented parent, while some 3,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 32,000 undocumented individuals in NC-12 have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 18,000 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 10,000 and contribute **\$284 million annually to NC-12's economy**. They also contribute \$35 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 7,000 and contributed **\$161 million to NC-12's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 34,000 immigrants in NC-12 are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$727 million to NC-12'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 **27,000 workers in NC-12's labor force, and paying an estimated \$114 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$6.2 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.0 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

19,000

Self-employed

32%

With college or advanced degrees

83%

Speak English

81%

Earn above the minimum needed to live