

Immigrants Make NJ-12 Stronger

*An estimated **282,000** immigrants live in NJ-12, making up **35%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **42%** of households in NJ-12.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of NJ-12's economy. Some 44% of NJ-12's labor force are immigrants, including 51% of the construction industry, 30% of agriculture, 50% of manufacturing, 52% of business services, and 37% of leisure and hospitality.

About 38,000 immigrants in NJ-12 work in STEM-related jobs, of which 21% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 63% of STEM degree holders in NJ-12 are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost NJ-12's communities. Some 128,000 immigrants, or about 45% of all immigrants in NJ-12, are U.S. citizens. About 45,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 27,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 21% of individuals in NJ-12, or some 166,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 31,000 U.S. citizen children in NJ-12 live with an undocumented parent, while some 7,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 31,000 undocumented individuals in NJ-12 have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 14,000 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 12,000 and contribute **\$231 million annually to NJ-12's economy**. They also contribute \$33 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 3,000 and contributed **\$48 million to NJ-12's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 30,000 immigrants in NJ-12 are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$648 million to NJ-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 24,000 workers in NJ-12's labor force, and paying an estimated \$100 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$13.5 billion

Annual spending power

\$5.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

18,000

Self-employed

55%

With college or advanced degrees

88%

Speak English

91%

Earn above the minimum needed to live