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Losing Status: *Thousands of Immigrants in the San Diego Metro Area Are Losing Status, Destabilizing the Local Economy and Harming Families*

By the end of 2026, we project that 8,000 immigrants in the San Diego metro area will have lost deportation protections and work permits since 2025, growing to 22,000 immigrants by the end of 2028, under current trends.

In early 2025, 41,000 people *had temporary status and protections*

In early 2025, an estimated 41,000 immigrants in the San Diego metro area had temporary protections granted by the U.S. government, including DACA, TPS, parole, a pending asylum case, a pending U or T visa application, or a Special Immigrant Juvenile status application. Temporarily protected immigrants made up an estimated 26,000 workers in the labor force and contributed $1.1 billion annually to the San Diego metro area's economy, and $365 million each year in combined taxes in 2025. They lived with an estimated 73,000 family members, including 30,000 U.S. citizen adults and 20,000 U.S. citizen children.

Early 2025: Protected Population and Economic Contributions

Protected Population	
Individuals with Protections	41,000
Workers with Work Authorization	26,000
Economic Contributions	
Annual Economic Contributions	$1.1 billion
Annual Federal and Payroll Taxes	$210 million
Annual State and Local Taxes	$155 million

By the end of 2025, 2,000 people *had lost status*

By the end of 2025, the Trump administration had revoked parole statuses for individuals admitted through the Cuban-Haitian-Nicaraguan-Venezuelan (CHNV) policy and the southern border using CBPOne. The administration also ended parole for Afghans who entered through the Operation Allies Welcome program. Additionally, the administration fully terminated TPS for six countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. While many paroled individuals and TPS holders accessed other protections, notably asylum, still **an estimated 2,000 individuals in the San Diego metro area had lost status by the end of 2025,** impacting an additional 2,000 U.S. citizen adults and 1,000 U.S. citizen children living with them.

End of 2025: Total Losses Since Early 2025

Protected Population	
Individuals Who Have Lost Protections	2,000
Workers Who Have Lost Work Authorization	1,000
Top Industries	
Construction	<1,000
Leisure & Hospitality	<1,000
Business Services	<1,000
Wholesale & Retail Trade	<1,000
Manufacturing	<1,000
Transportation & Utilities	<1,000
Healthcare & Education	<1,000
Economic Contributions	
Annual Economic Contributions Lost	$46 million
Annual Federal and Payroll Taxes Lost	$8 million
Annual State and Local Taxes Lost	$6 million

Data Methodology: FWD.us analysis of augmented 2024 American Community Survey data with immigrant status assignments, including temporary statuses as of March 2025, according to FWD.us methodology (fwd.us/2024-acs-methodology). Immigrants can have multiple protections (parole and TPS, TPS and a pending asylum claim, etc.); consequently, even when one protection is terminated, another form of protection may permit them to continue working and living in the U.S. For this reason, when some protections are terminated (e.g. parole and TPS), the number of people losing all protections do not equal the total sum of people with those protections, as some protections overlap among individuals. Industries are top industry categories derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Assumptions:** A randomly selected reduction of DACA recipients by 100,000 due to delayed processing of renewals was applied in 2027-2028. A total of 1.4 million asylum applicants, randomly selected in the 2024 ACS are deemed to no longer be protected as immigrant courts process an average of 350,000 cases each year, with only a 3% grant rate, based on EOIR workload trends. (Asylum losses are not applied for 2025, allowing for processing to accelerate under new asylum policies). Also, asylum applicants with a family income of $10,000 or less annually (~15% of asylum applicant families) are considered unlikely to afford and pay the annual application maintenance fee, leading to the cancellation of their application. Projections are based on current trends and anticipated policy decisions; actual number impacted could vary based on policy and enforcement decisions made by the administration, legal developments, or legislative action by Congress.

By the end of 2026, 8,000 people *are projected to have lost status*

As of August 2026, well more than a million people nationwide had already lost status, driven in large part by the Trump administration's cancelation of an additional seven TPS designations—Burma, Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. This number will grow if TPS for El Salvador, Lebanon, Sudan, and Ukraine are terminated as expected by the end of the year. Additionally, the administration has limited re-parole for individuals admitted through the Uniting for Ukraine program. Finally, several regulations regarding asylum, including an annual fee to maintain an asylum application, the dismissal of rescheduled master calendar hearings in asylum courts, referrals of nearly half a million affirmative cases nationwide to court adjudication, and a historic decline in approval rates will contribute to accelerating status losses by the end of 2026. Approximately 3,000 U.S. citizen adults and 2,000 U.S. citizen children in the San Diego metro area live with an individual who will be impacted. **Cumulatively, an estimated 8,000 individuals in the San Diego metro area are projected to have lost status by the end of 2026.**

End of 2026: Total Losses Since Early 2025

Protected Population	
Individuals Who Have Lost Protections	8,000
Workers Who Have Lost Work Authorization	4,000
Top Industries	
Transportation & Utilities	1,000
Manufacturing	1,000
Construction	<1,000
Leisure & Hospitality	<1,000
Business Services	<1,000
Wholesale & Retail Trade	<1,000
Healthcare & Education	<1,000
Economic Contributions	
Annual Economic Contributions Lost	$230 million
Annual Federal and Payroll Taxes Lost	$57 million
Annual State and Local Taxes Lost	$33 million

By the end of 2028, 22,000 people *are projected to have lost status*

After years of legal challenges to DACA, we expect continued delays in DACA renewal processing will cause more DACA recipients to lose protections. Losses stemming from asylum rules initiated in 2026 will expand. U and T visa applicants in a multi-year backlog are expected to be unable to obtain a new work permit. In the San Diego metro area, total losses are projected to reach 15,000 workers, a $595 million loss in annual economic contributions and an annual loss of $207 million in combined taxes. 34,000 household members will be impacted, including 13,000 U.S. citizen adults and 12,000 U.S. citizen children. **In all, an estimated 22,000 individuals in the San Diego metro area are projected to lose status by the end of the Trump administration, making up more than half (54%) of the total number protected at the start.**

End of 2028: Total Losses Since Early 2025

Protected Population	
Individuals Who Have Lost Protections	22,000
Workers Who Have Lost Work Authorization	15,000
Top Industries	
Construction	4,000
Wholesale & Retail Trade	2,000
Leisure & Hospitality	2,000
Healthcare & Education	2,000
Manufacturing	1,000
Transportation & Utilities	1,000
Business Services	1,000
Economic Contributions	
Annual Economic Contributions Lost	$595 million
Annual Federal and Payroll Taxes Lost	$122 million
Annual State and Local Taxes Lost	$85 million