

THE CITIZENSHIP FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS ACT

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Topline: The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act provides non-citizen essential workers with a fast, accessible, and secure path to citizenship, beginning with immediate adjustment of status to legal permanent resident. This legislation is a critical part of a just and inclusive COVID-19 recovery.

Who Are Non-citizen Essential Workers?

- There are approximately 5.2 million non-citizens working in jobs that were designated essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. This accounts for almost 3 out of 4 non-citizen workers in the United States.
- From janitors cleaning hospital floors to farm workers picking America's crops to EMTs and nurses saving lives, non-citizen essential workers have done the jobs that could not have been achieved remotely - putting their lives on the line so other Americans would not have to.
- As a result of their high rates of exposure, essential workers and their families bore high costs. They were, likelier to contract and die from COVID-19, which contributed to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.
- About 1 million non-citizen essential workers were defined as "Dreamers" under the American Dream and Promise Act, with many holding DACA status.
- In addition to helping Americans stay healthy and fed during the COVID-19 crisis, non-citizen essential workers contributed to our economic prosperity. Non-citizen essential workers paid up to \$79.7 billion in federal taxes and \$41 billion in state and local taxes annually.

What Does the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act Do?

- Adjustment of Status to Legal Permanent Resident under the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act is open to any non-citizen worker in the sectors of:
 - Health care
 - Agriculture
 - Construction
 - Emergency response
 - Sanitation
 - Food
 - Restaurants
 - Hotels and hospitality
 - Meat, fish, and poultry processing
 - Domestic work
 - Childcare
 - Disaster recovery
 - Home health and residential care
 - Manufacturing
 - Warehousing
 - Transportation and logistics
 - Janitorial
 - Laundry services
 - Any other worker deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security or state or local government.
- The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act will also include non-citizen workers who worked in essential industries but lost employment due to COVID-19, including leaving the job due to unsafe working conditions. Relatives of an essential worker who died from COVID-19 are also included
- Applicants for adjustment of status will be required to pay an application fee and receive a background check. All information provided or disclosed in an application for this act may not be used for enforcement purposes.
- The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act also aims to preserve family unity by repealing the three and ten-year bars for re-entry into the United States.

Why Support the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act?

- Migrants were essential throughout the pandemic and will be just as essential during the nation's continued recovery. In a recent letter, over 60 top economists urged the Biden administration to include a pathway to citizenship for non-citizen essential workers) as part of COVID-19 relief, stating that such a policy would increase prosperity and reduce poverty for all Americans.

Endorsements: CHIRLA, United Farm Workers, FWD.US, Church World Service, National Partnership for New Americans, Justice for Migrant Women, Nigerian Center, Movement for Justice in El Barrio, Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc., Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Immigration Hub, Central American Resource Center of Northern California (CARECEN SF), Hartford Deportation Defense, National Immigration Project, Cleveland Jobs with Justice, America's Voice, Oxfam America, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Bridges Faith Initiative, Freedom Network USA, National Young Farmers Coalition, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), UnidosUS