

ECONOMIC RECOVERY RELIEF MUST INCLUDE ARIZONA IMMIGRANTS

As COVID-19 infection rates continue to rise, the importance of front-line, essential workers highlights the vital role of immigrant workers in Arizona. Health care professionals, food service workers, child care providers, and emergency personnel, all providing essential services, are disproportionately immigrants.

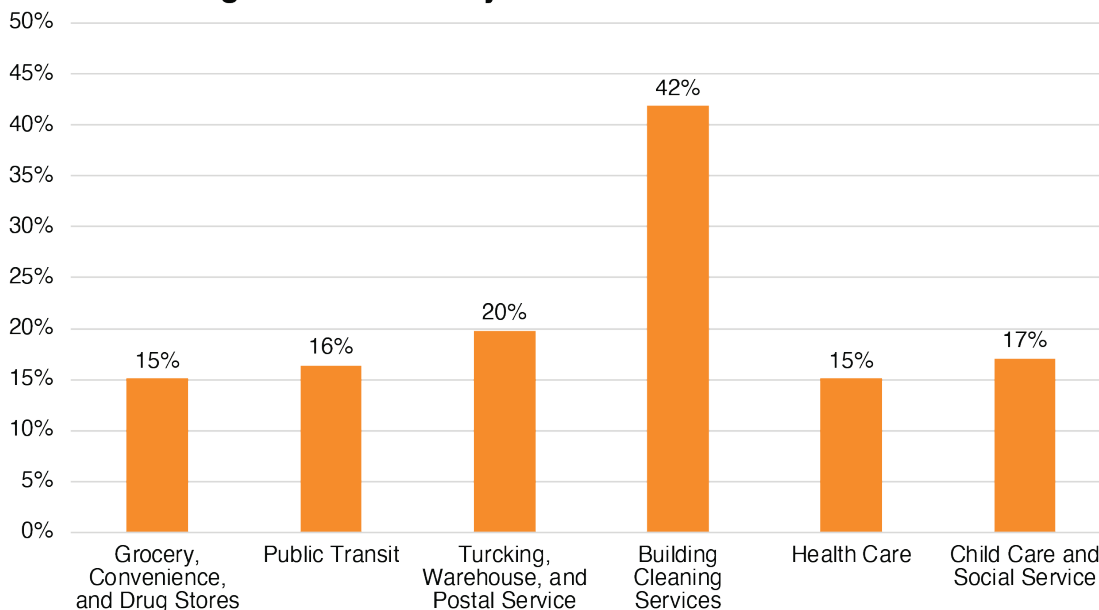
More than 1 in 10 Arizonans are immigrants. Sixteen percent of small businesses are owned by foreign-born Arizonans¹ and undocumented Arizonans contributed \$228.5 million to state and local taxes in 2018.² Economic recovery should include all immigrants as they are key drivers of economic growth and make up significant portions of the workforce Arizona needs to bring even more jobs and businesses to Arizona.

ARIZONA IMMIGRANTS ARE ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 3 million Arizonan workers were employed in six broad industries that continue to be on the frontlines of the pandemic response. They include grocery store clerks, nurses, cleaners, warehouse workers, and bus drivers. In Arizona, nearly 1 in 6 (16.7%) of all essential workers in these industries are immigrants. Workers in these frontline industries are at a greater risk of becoming exposed to the coronavirus, risking their health and the health of their loved ones and threatening their ability to continue to work.

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Immigrants Hold Nearly 1 in 6 Essential Jobs in Arizona



Source: Center for Economic and Policy Research analysis of American Community Survey, 2018 5-Year Estimates

IMMIGRANTS LEFT OUT OF FEDERAL AND STATE RELIEF AND SERVICES

Many undocumented immigrants work in essential industries or worked in sectors that have shut down during the pandemic. Despite the fact that many undocumented immigrants do essential work and pay taxes, they are not eligible for the federal stimulus payments or unemployment insurance to help weather the uncertainties of the pandemic. The federal response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act excluded low-and -moderate-income immigrants and mixed status families, preventing them from receiving public health services and economic relief packages.

This exclusion threatens the well-being of immigrant communities and thousands of children growing up in immigrant households in Arizona. Mixed status families were left out of the economic recovery packages if one

¹Analysis by FPI, 2015 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year data IPUMs

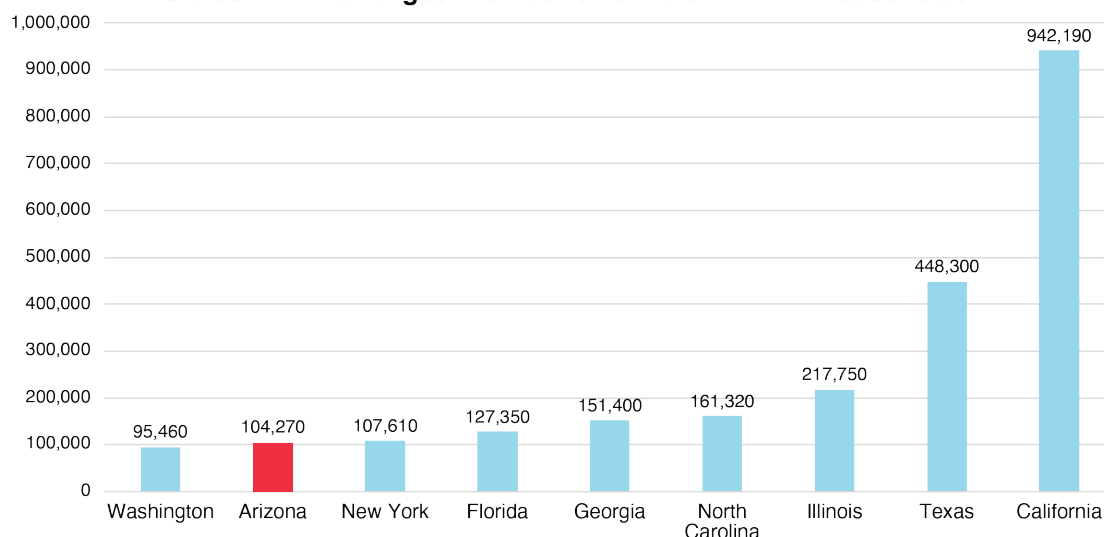
²New American Economy, Map the Impact: Arizona, <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/arizona/>

or more of their family members filed their taxes using an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) rather than a Social Security Number. Nationwide, nearly 8 million children and adult households were excluded from the federal stimulus packages. Arizona has one of the largest populations of immigrant households filing taxes with an ITIN. **At total of 210,830** Arizonans live in households with an ITIN filer, 49.5 percent of which are children.

104,000 children in Arizona live in an immigrant household that did not receive a stimulus payment provided by the CARES Act due to an ITIN filing.

If ITIN filers were retroactively included in the CARES Act, Arizona's mixed status families would receive \$180 million, boosting economic stability for Arizona families and uplifting local economies.

States with the Largest Number of Children in ITIN Households



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy analysis, March 2020 SPEC Returns Database for the ITIN market segment for tax year 2015 and ITEP's Microsimulation Tax Model. The 2015 data was provided upon special request and represents the most recent year of data available at the time of the analysis. Dollars rounded to the nearest thousand.

Arizona allows hospitals to bill for emergency services provided to **low-come** immigrant individuals who would otherwise **not** be eligible for Medicaid. As Arizona's COVID-19 cases continue to increase and the crisis poses an emerging risk to public health entities, Arizona should clarify that emergency Medicaid can be billed when providing COVID-19 related care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Doing so will allow immigrants to access the care they need, in a trusted setting, without undue financial or administrative burden on the health care system.

Arizona policymakers can also improve access to health care for immigrant children by adopting the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) for our state's Medicaid and CHIP programs. This would allow documented foreign-born children to access affordable health care. Other states have also allocated state funds to provide Medicaid and CHIP services to all children, regardless of immigration status; Arizona should pursue a pathway toward this option.

Recommendations for Immigrants and Children Growing Up in Mixed Status Households:

1. Expand CARES Act eligibility to ITIN filers.
2. Expand emergency Medicaid billing for all COVID-19 related treatments beyond hospital settings.
3. **Arizona should adopt the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) option in Medicaid so that more immigrant children can access health insurance.**

The COVID-19 crisis has caused economic uncertainty and unprecedented challenges for our communities, our state, and the entire country. If we are to collectively face these challenges, we must support the health and well-being of all Arizona, including immigrants.