Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth

**Scenario 2: Undocumented immigrants working in essential roles**

**Who is eligible under this scenario?**

Under this scenario, all undocumented immigrants working in essential jobs, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), would be eligible to legalize immediately and access a pathway to citizenship after five years. The authors estimate that 5 million undocumented individuals are eligible for protection using 2019–2020 CPS data.

**Short-run impacts (implementation to year five):**

- **$4,300 (10%)**
  - Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

**Long-run impacts (year five to year 10):**

- **$11,800 (27.3%)**
  - Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

- **$989 billion**
  - Total cumulative GDP increase through the decade

- **$300 (0.5%)**
  - Increase in annual wages of all other workers

- **203,200**
  - Total number of new jobs created

**Note:** See “Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth” for full methodology.

**Endnotes**