Immigrant Access to Higher Education



As of April 2020, 19 states offer in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants attending public institutions of higher education



California, New Mexico, Texas and Washington have approved legislation that allows undocumented immigrants to receive state financial aid and scholarships in addition to in-state tuition.



Benefits to States Expanding Access to Higher Education





Increasing State Revenues

Public universities and colleges will receive higher revenues by increasing their student population. In addition, states will receive increased tax revenues from a more highly-educated, higher-earning population.



Fortifying Social Security and Medicare

As more highly-educated immigrants move into higher-earning occupations, they will pay more into Social Security and Medicare. This will help fortify these programs as an increasing number of Baby Boomers retire.



Helping Students Reach Their Full Potential

In-state tuition parity helps students reach their full potential. Along with providing increased access to higher education, the opportunity for in-state tuition provides additional motivation for immigrant students to complete their K-12 education and strive for greater academic achievement.



Promoting Fairness and Opportunity for Dreamers

Dreamers entered the United States as children, and for many of them, the U.S. is the only country they know as home. It is only fair to provide them access to higher education. After having invested in the education of Dreamers through high school graduation, it is also a smart investment for states to help them reach their full potential by making higher education accessible to them.

