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THE NEW YORK STATE EXCLUDED WORKER FUND at last provides a meaningful level of assistance to undocumented workers who have been excluded from major federal pandemic assistance.

The \$2.1 billion fund creates two tiers of aid. Tier 1 is on a rough par with unemployment insurance, and provides \$15,600 to undocumented workers who can meet its strict standards of proof of eligibility. Tier 2 pays \$3,200, and is on a par with the three rounds of federal stimulus payments (\$1,200, \$600, and \$1,400).

Statewide, the Fiscal Policy Institute estimates that 290,000 workers will benefit from the Excluded Worker Fund. That includes 92,000 we estimate will qualify for Tier 1 benefits and 199,000 for Tier 2 benefits.

290,000 Undocumented Workers Expected to Benefit from Excluded Worker Fund

	Tier 1 (\$15,600 per Worker)	Tier 2 (\$3,200 per Worker)	How Many Workers Benefit (Total)
New York City	67,000	146,000	213,000
Long Island	11,000	24,000	35,000
Nassau	6,000	12,000	18,000
Suffolk	5,000	12,000	17,000
Lower Hudson Valley	6,000	14,000	20,000
Mid Hudson Valley	3,000	6,000	9,000
Capital Region	1,000	3,000	4,000
Northern and Western NY	3,000	6,000	9,000
Central NY	400	1,000	1,000
Finger Lakes	1,000	2,000	2,000
Mohawk Valley	200	400	1,000
North Country	200	400	1,000
Southern Tier	400	1,000	1,000
Western NY	1,000	2,000	2,000
New York State	92,000	199,000	290,000

FIG. 1 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis. See Methodology for details. Numbers independently rounded.

The purpose of the fund is to help families through an unprecedented time of financial hardship. But when workers gain, so do the communities where they live. Shops, grocery stores, gas stations, and local businesses in general will see an uptick in sales. The estimated benefit to each region of the state is given below: \$60 million in Northern and Western New York, \$29 million in the Capital Region, \$65 million in the Mid Hudson Valley, \$143 million in the Lower Hudson Valley, \$251 million on Long Island, and \$1.5 billion in New York City.

The Tier 1 benefit of \$15,600 is enough to make a real difference in the lives of families who have struggled through this pandemic year.

It is substantial enough to be

compared to unemployment insurance, though it is still well below the amount other workers who lost their jobs could get. For instance, a New York worker who was unemployed throughout the pandemic year and received the average weekly benefit would have received \$34,000 over the course of the year. That same worker, if still unemployed

An Economic Boost to Every Region of the State

	Economic Boost to Region
New York City	\$1.5 billion
Long Island	\$251 million
Nassau	\$128 million
Suffolk	\$123 million
Lower Hudson Valley	\$143 million
Mid Hudson Valley	\$65 million
Capital Region	\$29 million
Northern and Western NY	\$60 million
Central NY	\$10 million
Finger Lakes	\$16 million
Mohawk Valley	\$4 million
North Country	\$4 million
Southern Tier	\$9 million
Western NY	\$17 million
New York State	\$2.1 billion

FIG. 2 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis. See Methodology for details. Numbers independently rounded.

By Way of Comparison: \$34,000 to New Yorkers Unemployed Throughout the Pandemic Who Got Average Weekly Unemployment Benefits

	Number of Weeks	Average NYS Weekly Benefit	Federal Boost	Total Weekly Benefit	Benefit Per Worker
April 4 - July 26 (2020)	17	\$352	\$600	\$952	\$16,184
July 27 - Sept 5	6	\$333	\$300	\$633	\$3,797
Sept 6 - Jan 4 (2020-2021)	16	\$342	\$0	\$342	\$5,473
January 5 - April 2	13	\$360	\$300	\$660	\$8,584
1-Year Total (April-April)					\$34,038
April 3 - Sept 6 (2021)	24	\$360	\$300	\$660	\$15,848
Total for Pandemic Relief Period (April 2020 to Sept. 2021)					\$49,886

FIG. 3 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis. Average weekly unemployment benefit for New York from U.S. Department of Labor.

through September of 2021, the end of the currently approved time for enhanced unemployment benefits to address the pandemic, would receive a combined total of \$50,000 over the nearly 2-year period.

As previous reports from the Fiscal Policy Institute have shown, undocumented immigrants are contributing to state revenues in a variety of ways. [Every year, undocumented immigrants pay](#) sales tax, contribute to property taxes (directly or paying rent that supports the landlord's taxes), and about half file income tax returns. And, the employers of undocumented immigrants often [pay into the unemployment insurance system](#), even though the workers can never collect unemployment benefits.

The \$2.1 billion fund to aid excluded workers in this pandemic is urgently needed, thoroughly deserved, and will benefit not only workers and their families but also the communities where they live.

By: David Dyssegaard Kallick

David Dyssegaard Kallick is Deputy Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Director of FPI's Immigration Research Initiative

Methodology

Estimates of the number of undocumented immigrant workers in New York State and its regions is derived from an analysis done for the Fiscal Policy Institute by the Center for Migration Studies, based on the 2018 American Community Survey. These estimates are in line with CMS's statewide estimates at <http://data.cmsny.org/>. There are a total of 489,000 undocumented immigrants estimated to be in the labor force in New York State as a whole, 14,000 in Northern and Western New York, 7,000 in the Capital Region, 15,000 in the Mid Hudson Valley, 34,000 in the Lower Hudson Valley, 59,000 on Long Island, and 359,000 in New York City. (New York City numbers conform with estimates from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.)

The regions in light blue shaded areas are direct estimates from the Center for Migration Studies. The regions in grey shaded areas in the charts assume that the share of undocumented immigrant workers in the region is roughly proportionate to the share of non-citizen immigrants in the region, as determined by a Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of the American Community Survey 2019 5-year data.

We assume that for Tier 1, 50 percent of undocumented workers filed income tax returns using an ITIN or can otherwise meet the requirements to prove their work history in New York. We assume 75 percent had enough job loss that they meet the income requirements of earning less than \$26,000. And, we assume that the takeup rate for people who are eligible is 50 percent.

For Tier 2 we assume that 50 percent of those undocumented workers who do not qualify for Tier 1 apply for and meet the requirements of Tier 2.

In all calculations, numbers may not sum to the column total because of independent rounding.