

# Expanding Driver's License Access to All Floridians

## OVERVIEW

There are an estimated 680,000 driving-age immigrants in Florida who are undocumented.

For over a decade, numerous organizations and individuals in Florida, including business owners, law enforcement, nonprofits, and faith leaders, have been pushing for an inclusive driver's license policy. They recognize that immigrants already living and working in the state should be trained and licensed to drive just like U.S.-born Floridians. Sixteen states plus D.C. have enacted inclusive driver's license laws.

*This fact sheet serves as an update to Florida Policy Institute (FPI)'s 2019 report. FPI finds that within the first three years of implementation, an inclusive driver's license policy would:*



***Make roads safer by testing and licensing over 340,000 additional drivers.***

This estimate of 340,000 drivers assumes about half of those newly eligible for licenses would pursue them. This mirrors the take-up rates of states who have already passed inclusive legislation (see report for full methodology). Not only would this improve public safety by ensuring everyone on Florida roads has demonstrated driving competency, but research shows it could also moderately reduce insurance premiums.



***Generate upwards of \$68 million in state revenue from taxes and fees.***

Florida faces a \$5.6 billion revenue shortfall in the wake of COVID-19, so policies that generate state revenue are more crucial now than ever. Newly licensed drivers pay driver's license fees and fees and sales tax related to vehicle purchases over time. A registered vehicle is required of anyone taking a driving test at their local Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles office. FPI estimates that approximately 85,000 additional vehicles would be purchased, registered, and titled under an inclusive driver's license policy.



***Broaden job opportunities for newly licensed drivers.***

When people have licenses, they are no longer reliant on rides, Florida's disjointed public transportation system, or worse — driving without a license — to get to work. Floridians living in rural areas would especially benefit from having driver's licenses. Reliable transportation also eases burdens on employers. Moreover, better jobs often equate to better pay, which in turn helps people keep food on the table and pay bills; additionally, the economy sees a boost as individuals' spending power increases.



***Allow immigrants of color to commute with less fear of racial profiling.***

Florida is one of five states that, collectively, are home to more than half of U.S. immigrants who are undocumented. Despite having lived here for decades and paying taxes, many individuals face harassment, detainment, or deportation. This risk rings especially true for immigrants of color. Any driver's license legislation should include strict confidentiality measures to prevent officials from automatically sharing identifying information with federal immigration authorities.

Full report with citations available at:

[www.floridapolicy.org/posts/a-minimum-wage-boost-would-improve-equity-for-2-5-million-floridians-and-bolster-the-states-post-pandemic-recovery](http://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/a-minimum-wage-boost-would-improve-equity-for-2-5-million-floridians-and-bolster-the-states-post-pandemic-recovery)