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About 2 in 3 Immigrant Workers Excluded From the CalEITC Are COVID-19 Essential Workers

Among Workers Excluded From the CalEITC, Estimated Share in Essential Workforce = 65%



Note: Essential worker is defined based on the April 28, 2020 "Essential Workforce" list published by the State Public Health Officer, with the definition developed in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Labor Center. Reflects the share of immigrant workers who would likely be eligible to claim the CalEITC, if tax filers were permitted to use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) as well as Social Security Numbers when claiming the credit. Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey public-use microdata for 2018 downloaded from IPUMS USA (University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org), with immigration status imputed using methods developed for the California Poverty Measure, a joint project of the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

- California workers who file taxes using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) are currently excluded from the CalEITC, the state's refundable tax credit for working individuals and families with low incomes.

- The majority of these excluded immigrant workers – an estimated 2 in 3 of those who could be eligible for the CalEITC – perform jobs considered "essential" during the COVID-19 crisis. Many work in jobs vital to our food supply. An estimated 1 in 4 (24%) work in the farm industry, and an estimated 1 in 6 (18%) work in restaurants, in the occupations involved in preparing food for take-out or delivery. An estimated 1 in 11 (9%) work in grocery stores or grocery wholesale.

- California has officially recognized that the jobs these workers do are "essential" to the community and economy. Ending the inequitable exclusion of these Californians from the CalEITC would respect their long-standing essential contributions to the state.