

Driver's Licenses For All: Quick Facts

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Driver's licenses, issued by Minnesota's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), allow individuals to navigate our roads safely and legally. In Minnesota, only individuals who pass the driver's test and also prove legal immigration status are allowed to receive a driver's license. That means undocumented immigrants do not have safe, legal access to our shared roads. Currently, twelve states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico allow undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses.

How does issuing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants benefit Minnesota?

It makes our roads safer for everyone

- Undocumented drivers would need to pass a written and driving test to obtain a license, ensuring all drivers are certified to drive.
- With licenses, undocumented drivers will also be required to purchase auto insurance. After passing laws to allow undocumented drivers access to licenses, New Mexico saw its [rate of uninsured drivers drop by 24%](#). Utah saw a similar drop of 20%.

It would benefit families and the economy

- In Minnesota, an undocumented immigrant's annual income would increase an estimated **\$1,500-4,400** if permitted to obtain a driver's license. That means more spending, boosting Minnesota's economy for all of us.
- Greater Minnesota and the agricultural sector depend on immigrant workers, who need safe and legal access to roads in rural areas with little to no existing public transit.
- All drivers benefit from lower auto insurance rates in states that grant undocumented immigrants access to drivers licenses.
- In Oregon, research found that barring undocumented immigrants from receiving driver's licenses would likely cause the state to lose \$134-201.9 million in gross domestic product due to the difficulty undocumented immigrants would have in accessing their jobs without driving.

It would make life safer for our undocumented neighbors and friends

- As of 2013, **32,000 U.S. citizen children** in Minnesota have undocumented parents, 2.6% of all children under 18 in the state. For these mixed-status families, issuing licenses to undocumented immigrant parents means giving U.S. citizen children safer access to essential services like education and healthcare.
- Law enforcement supports creating access to driver's licenses for all immigrants to be able to verify everyone's identity, giving them greater ability to protect public safety.
- Allowing undocumented immigrants access to licenses would grant greater ability to enforce laws in immigrant communities. Allowing undocumented immigrants access to a license, a way to drive legally, and a way to identify themselves to law enforcement would increase trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, leading to greater collaboration and cooperation.
- Undocumented immigrants with access to driver's license are able to help their citizen children go to school, to the doctor, and to activities and employment, building stronger families and communities for all.

How would it work?

- Driver's licenses would be distinctively marked as required under federal law and would not be valid for REAL ID purposes. Issuing licenses without proof of immigration status would not only benefit undocumented immigrants, but also those experiencing homelessness, the elderly, and other groups who may have difficulty obtaining hard-to-access documentation.

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