

Unemployment Bridge Program

The proposed Unemployment Bridge Program would allow New York State to permanently close some key gaps in New York’s system for unemployment compensation. Immigration Research Initiative estimates that in all, **750,000 workers in the New York State labor force** would be covered by the program, giving them a measure of security knowing that they could receive a benefit from the program if they should lose their job. This includes:

- **Immigrants without work authorization.** (470,000 workers)
- **Self-employed people and freelancers.** (180,000 workers)
- **Domestic workers, landscapers, and construction workers** in small teams. (80,000 workers)
- **People who are re-entering the labor force after being incarcerated** or in immigration detention. (20,000 workers)

Of these, IRI estimates that at any given time **30,000 New York workers** would be unemployed and receiving compensation through program. Those qualifying would receive a flat monthly payment of either \$1,200 for full or \$800 for partial unemployment, in line with what others get through the regular unemployment insurance system. That support is both a bridge to get past a difficult period and a springboard to help workers re-enter the labor force more effectively.

IRI calculates that the Unemployment Bridge Program will require an **annual state allocation of \$500 million.** That includes up to \$75 million for administrative costs, including hiring new staff for the Department of Labor, navigators to guide applicants through the application or to unemployment insurance, and grants to nonprofit organizations to provide outreach support. Administrative costs also cover monitoring the dark web, an annual audit for payment accuracy, and other measures to ensure the integrity of the program.

The program would bring benefits to every region of the state, with some regions seeing the income support going more to immigrants, or to freelancers, or to domestic workers, or to people re-entering the labor force after being incarcerated. Because aid to families also boosts the local economy, the Unemployment Bridge Program will bring millions of dollars into the region.

For the [full methodology](#), and for detail on the [six regions of New York State](#), please go to: www.immresearch.org



REGIONAL GAINS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT BRIDGE PROGRAM

	Number of People	Economic Boost to Region
New York State		
Covered	750,000	
Recipients	30,000	
New York City		
Covered	480,000	\$250 million
Recipients	17,000	
Long Island		
Covered	90,000	\$45 million
Recipients	3,500	
Lower Hudson Valley		
Covered	50,000	\$25 million
Recipients	1,800	
Mid-Hudson Valley		
Covered	30,000	\$18 million
Recipients	1,200	
Capital District		
Covered	20,000	\$19 Million
Recipients	1,300	
Northern and Western NY		
Covered	90,000	\$70 million
Recipients	4,800	