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Unemployment Bridge Program: Benefits in Six Regions of NYS

In New York State, advocates, legislators, and the governor are currently debating the merits of a proposed Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP), which would provide coverage in case of job loss to New York State workers who are not able to get regular unemployment insurance.

In [Bridging the Unemployment Insurance Gap](#), Immigration Research Initiative previously estimated that the program would cost \$500 million, and would cover 750,000 New Yorkers, with 30,000 getting the benefit at any given time.

New Data: Benefits in Six Regions of New York State

Immigration Research Initiative estimates that the 750,000 workers statewide who would be covered by the UBP includes 480,000 workers in New York City, 90,000 on Long Island, 50,000 in the Lower Hudson Valley, 30,000 in the Mid-Hudson Valley, 20,000 in the Capital District, and 90,000 in Northern and Western New York. These people would have the security of knowing that if they lost work, they would have a safety net to fall back on.

IRI estimates that about 30,000 people would be unemployed and getting the \$1,200 monthly benefit at any given time. This includes 17,000 in New York City, 3,500 on Long Island, 1,800 in the Lower Hudson Valley, 1,200 in the Mid-Hudson Valley, 1,300 in the Capital District, and 4,800 in Northern and Western New York.

This state allocation would also be an economic boost to each region of the state. In New York City, that translates into \$250 million per year, on Long Island \$45 million, in the Lower Hudson Valley \$25 million, in the Mid-Hudson Valley \$18 million, in the Capital District \$19 million, and in Northern and Western New York \$70 million. This is the direct economic impact, before counting the multiplier effect when families spend money on food, rent, job training, or other expenditures that help them through a challenging time but also boost local businesses. In addition, the Capital District can be expected to benefit up to \$75 million that would be spent on administration of the program, including hiring state employees and technology contractors.

REGIONAL BENEFITS OF UNEMPLOYMENT BRIDGE PROGRAM:

WHO'S COVERED, HOW MANY AT A TIME WILL GET IT, AND WHAT IS THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

	Immigrants lacking work authorization	Self- employed and freelance workers	Construction workers in small jobs, landscapers, domestic workers	Re-entering the labor force after incarceration or detention	Total	Economic Boost to Region
New York State						
Covered	470,000	180,000	80,000	20,000	750,000	
Recipients	14,000	5,000	3,000	7,000	30,000	
New York City						
Covered	340,000	84,000	38,000	9,000	480,000	
Recipients	10,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	17,000	\$250 million
Long Island						
Covered	57,000	18,000	10,000	2,000	90,000	
Recipients	2,000	600	300	600	3,500	\$45 million
Lower Hudson Valley						
Covered	32,000	9,000	7,000	1,000	50,000	
Recipients	1,000	300	200	300	1,800	\$25 million
Mid-Hudson Valley						
Covered	15,000	9,000	4,000	1,000	30,000	
Recipients	400	300	100	400	1,200	\$18 million
Capital District						
Covered	7,000	11,000	5,000	2,000	20,000	
Recipients	200	300	200	600	1,300	\$19 Million
Northern and Western NY						
Covered	14,000	44,000	21,000	7,000	90,000	
Recipients	400	1,300	600	2,500	4,800	\$70 million

Fig. 1 Totals are independently rounded. Number covered is how many who currently cannot get unemployment insurance could qualify if they lost their job. Recipients is the number who are projected to be receiving the benefit at any given time.

These regional estimates were developed with a methodology described fully in [Bridging the Unemployment Insurance Gap](#). Data from the Prison Policy Institute’s “Where People in Prison Come From: The Geography of Mass Incarceration in New York,” by Emily Widra and Nick Encalada-Malinowski, allowed IRI to estimate the total re-entry population in each region based on the distribution of people in state prison.

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