

# Immigration

*Attract Global Talent to Meet Labor Market Needs*

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

↓  
National and regional economic development objectives should drive immigration policy

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Reform the H-1B lottery system to allow U.S. companies to hire skilled workers based on labor market demands, not fixed and arbitrary quotas

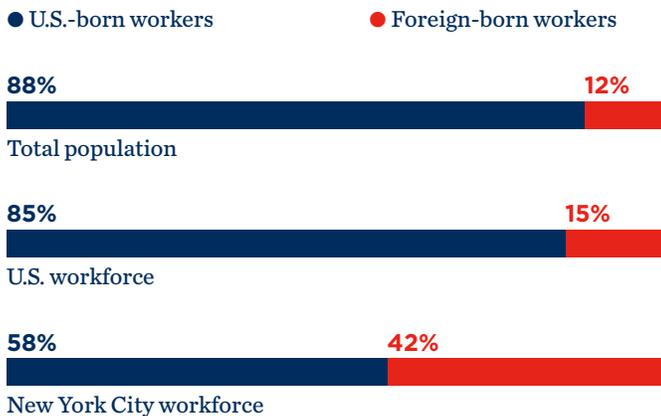
↓  
Provide fast-tracked and longer term work visas for students educated in U.S. universities for STEM and other jobs where high skilled individuals are in short supply, including a merit-based route to permanent residency

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Establish a more aggressive program to encourage foreign entrepreneurs to build companies in the U.S.

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Provide a clear path to citizenship for immigrants at all skill levels (including undocumented workers and their families when there is no criminal record)

**Figure 1**

*Immigrants represent 42 percent of the workforce and 48 percent of the small business owners in New York City (2017).*



**More than 50%**

Percentage of New York City's "low-skill" workforce that is foreign-born

**25%**

Immigrants are granted more than a quarter of high-quality patents.

**\$12 billion**

Undocumented workers estimated annual contribution to state and local taxes (2016)

## Current policies slow economic growth and disadvantage U.S. companies.

**199,000**

H-1B visa applications made this year, with cap allowing only 85,000 to be granted, making it hard to recruit and retain skilled workers.

**~70%**

Approximately 70 percent of applicants lose out in the H-1B lottery process, regardless of labor market needs.

**1.1 million**

The U.S. has 1.1 million international students with no direct path to employment visa or green card.

### CURRENT CHALLENGES

Permanent residence is seldom available to temporary workers or students.

U.S. entrepreneur visas (E-2 visas) require a significant amount of cash and offer no permanent residency benefits for new business startups.