

Immigration

Attract Global Talent to Meet Labor Market Needs

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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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

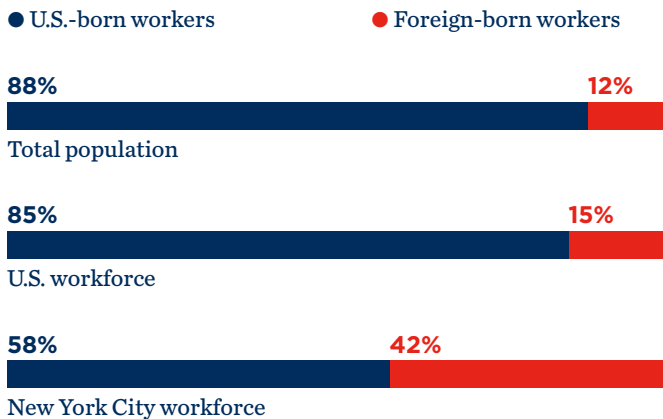
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Provide fast-tracked and longer term work visas for students educated in U.S. universities for STEM and other jobs where high skilled individuals are in short supply, including a merit-based route to permanent residency

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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.