



**IMMIGRANT DAY  
OF ACTION  
2022**

# FACTSHEET: IMMIGRANT EQUITY BUDGET

Sponsored by California Immigrant Policy Center  
Alongside coalition leaders of the #Health4All,  
#SafetyNet4All and #Food4All campaigns

## Summary

The California Immigrant Equity Budget (IEB) would allocate **\$2.5 billion** in investments to support immigrant Californians by:

- Investing in immigrant workers who have been historically excluded from unemployment benefits (**\$690 Million**) (AB 2847 - E. Garcia);
- Providing comprehensive health care access to all income-eligible Californians through full-scope Medi-Cal (**\$1.3 Billion**) (AB 4 - Arambula/SB 56 - Durazo);
- Ensuring that every household can put food on the table by making CalFresh available to all income-eligible Californians (**\$548 Million**) (SB 464 - Hurtado)

## Issue

As we enter into our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the heaviest health and economic burdens continue to fall on low-wage immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. The immigrant community especially has been hit hardest as federal and state laws also categorically exclude undocumented immigrants from accessing unemployment benefits, food, and comprehensive health care.

These categorical exclusions of undocumented immigrants from state safety net programs have widened and exacerbated California's racial and economic inequalities.

While we wait on the federal government to provide legalization and citizenship for the 11 million<sup>1</sup> undocumented immigrants that live in the U.S. – of whom 2.7 million<sup>2</sup> reside in California – we must ensure that the state is prioritizing the well-being of our most marginalized communities, continuing to look critically at structural exclusions, and honoring the role and contributions of immigrant Californians—our neighbors, colleagues, family and friends. This will also help California build a more resilient economy.

## Solution

California has the resources to effect these changes. According to the Governor's January proposed budget, our state government is operating with a \$45.7 billion surplus<sup>3</sup> this year (with a projected

1 Migration Policy Institute, "Profile of the Unauthorized Population: United States," available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/US>.

2 Migration Policy Institute, "Profile of the Unauthorized Population: California," available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/CA>.

3 California Department of Finance, "2022-23 California Budget Summary," January 2022, available at <https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2022-23/pdf/BudgetSummary/Introduction.pdf>

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additional \$15 billion<sup>4</sup>) – made possible by tax revenues from the wealthy who have flourished during the pandemic, often at the expense of low-income workers.

Now is the time for California to invest in equity and racial justice. The IEB lifts up the full inclusion of our immigrant friends, family, and neighbors.

We all deserve access to basic needs like nutritious food. We all deserve comprehensive and holistic health care coverage. We all deserve access to wage replacement programs.

## Support

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The California Immigrant Equity Budget is supported by nearly 150 leading health, economic justice, civil rights, social justice, and community-based organizations.

Please contact Alexis Castro for a complete list of supportive organizations.

## Opposition

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None.

## Contact(s)

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<sup>4</sup> California Legislative Analyst's Office, "2021-22 'Big Three' Revenue Outlook Update: February 2022," available at <https://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax/Article/Detail/725>