

Ensuring Economic Justice and Good Jobs



Ensuring Economic Justice and Good Jobs: Immediate Supplemental funding for the Excluded Workers Fund

Immigrants continue to be over-represented in the industries hardest hit by the economic downturn caused by the global pandemic, and were therefore more likely to be left unemployed than the native born workforce. And many immigrant families were shamefully shut out of federal relief efforts and continue to struggle. The successful Excluded Worker Fund (EWF) was able to provide critical life-saving relief to thousands of New York's working families. Unfortunately our work is far from over and too many members of our communities across the state still have received no relief. This is especially true in upstate New York and parts of Long Island.

Recommendations:

Allocation of an additional \$3.1 billion to the existing Excluded Worker Fund, with 10% for administrative costs and the remaining 90% for benefits:

- Serve an additional 173,000 excluded workers -- bringing the total to 295,000 beneficiaries across the state,
- Bring much needed economic activity to areas of the state that have been left behind
Provide for an accessible application process and expansive proof requirements--including self-attestation and information undocumented workers are able to provide.

Policy solutions will allow the thousands of additional workers the ability to apply for vital relief:

- A five-point self-attestations of work history for people paid in cash.
- Affidavits from co-habitants as proof of past and current residency.
- A self-attestation or an affidavit for excluded workers who lost some or all of their documents due to Hurricane Ida.

This global pandemic, along with other natural disasters like Hurricane Ida, hit Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), immigrant, and working class individuals the hardest. In almost every way, immigrants and their families have been some of the hardest hit by the pandemic and the ensuing response. And many immigrant families were shamefully shut out of federal relief efforts. EWF showed that there is an immense need for state provided direct funds in times of critical need for immigrant New Yorkers and because of this we are also advocating for the creation of a permanent fund.