

#Coverage4All



A campaign of Health Care for All New York (HCFANY) led by the New York Immigration Coalition and Make the Road New York.

October 2021

FY2023 Legislative and Budget Priority: Create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are currently excluded because of their immigration status (introduced as A880/S1572).

Needs:

Currently, 154,000 New Yorkers are uninsured because of their immigration status. By allocating \$345 million New York policymakers can make them eligible for quality, affordable coverage through a state-funded Essential Plan. We estimate that 46,000 of them would enroll annually when the program is fully implemented. Other states—including California and Illinois —have moved forward to remedy this situation using state funds. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, excluding immigrants is unethical given that they contribute over \$1 billion annually in state and local taxes.

New York State should create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level, regardless of immigration status, by enacting A880/S1572.

Key Points:

- Uninsured New Yorkers often avoid medical care for fear of costs. As a consequence, many experience prolonged illness and suffering and even risk death. When they can no longer avoid care they may incur huge medical bills that result in uncompensated care for providers. According to [Community Service Society and Citizens Budget Commission](#), insuring 46,000 uninsured people could save \$19 million in uncompensated care costs.
- Immigrant New Yorkers have been at the forefront of the state's fight against COVID-19, representing 54% of the state's essential workers and playing a key role in all sectors of our battle against the pandemic. This ongoing exposure has contributed to the disparate outcomes in COVID-19 infection and death, which have disproportionately afflicted immigrant communities of color.
- According to a 2021 report by [Families USA](#), more than 8,200 New Yorkers died from COVID-19 due to lack of health coverage. We estimate at least 2,700 of them are undocumented.
- New York has a history of providing some coverage to immigrant communities excluded from federal programs. More recently compared to other states we are falling behind. The state should continue to step up where federal policies fall short and lead nationally on immigrant healthcare issues by enacting a state-funded Essential Plan for immigrants.