

# The Impact of Allowing All Immigrants Access to Driver's Licenses

Prior to the passage of the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act in 2013, 142,000 unlicensed immigrants were ineligible for driver's licenses in Colorado. Due to the reduction in size of the program and lack of funding, many are still waiting to get their licenses.

## What would happen if all immigrants had access to driver's licenses?

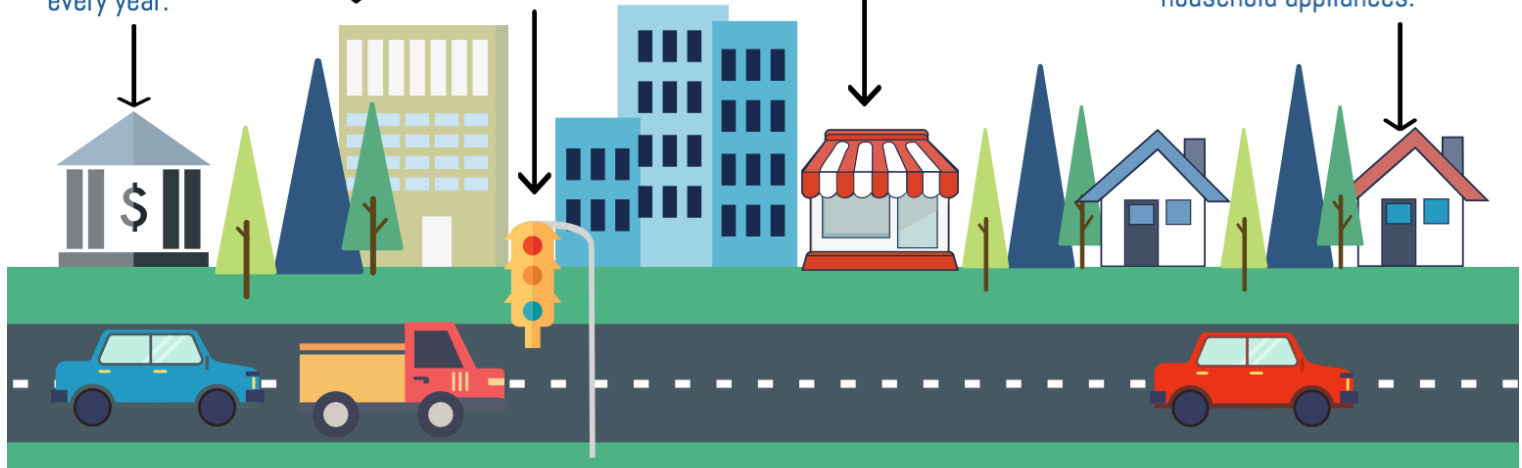
Insurance companies could see increased revenue of **\$102 million** annually.

Colorado drivers could see savings of **\$57 million** in insurance premiums every year.

Colorado roads become **safer** as licensed drivers become more knowledgeable about traffic and road laws.

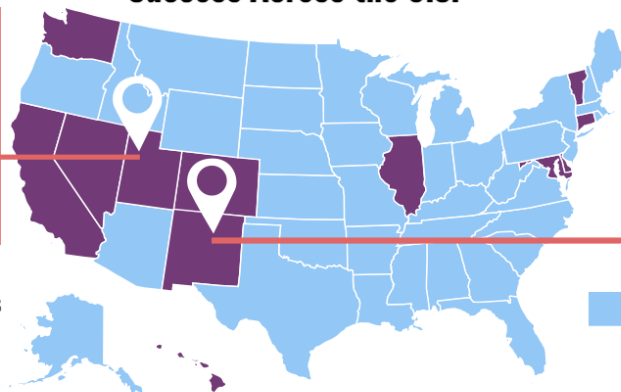
More money is put back into the local economy as those with driver's licenses are more likely to work and spend money.<sup>1</sup>

Licensed drivers are more likely to purchase larger items such as homes, vehicles or household appliances.<sup>1</sup>



## Success Across the U.S.

Utah began issuing Driving Privilege Cards (DPC) in 2005. As a result, Utah's uninsured motorist rate dropped **20 percent** and DPC holders have an insurance coverage rate of **75 percent**.<sup>2,3</sup>



Since New Mexico began issuing licenses in 2003, the rate of uninsured vehicles decreased by almost **24 percent**, alcohol-related crashes decreased **32 percent** and traffic fatalities fell **23 percent**.<sup>4,5</sup>

Colorado's current driver's license program for undocumented immigrants is restricted by size and funding. For the estimated 142,000 undocumented immigrants that would make use of this program, only three offices in Colorado offer appointments and appointments are capped at 66,000 in total. As a result, many are left waiting to get their driver's licenses.

Colorado should work to remove this cap and increase the number of office locations that take appointments to extend access to driver's licenses to all immigrants.

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Transportation, Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of SB 1080 on Immigrant Groups, June 2011 [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP\\_RES/docs/reports/2011/sb1080.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP_RES/docs/reports/2011/sb1080.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/07/09/news/effects-on-insurance-unclear.html> (Note: there is some conflicting research from the Insurance Research Council) see also: "Effects on Insurance Unclear," Albuquerque Journal, July, 9, 2012, <http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/07/09/news/effects-on-insurance-unclear.html>;

<sup>3</sup> University of New Mexico, Division of Government Research, <http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/reports/annual/annrpt02.pdf> and <http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/reports/annual/ar2010-9-19-2012draft.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, "Determining the impact of unlicensed immigrant motorists in Illinois," 2012

<sup>5</sup> Ibid