







BUILD BRIDGES FOR IMMIGRANTS

THE ROAD AHEAD

To protect immigrant families and build a stronger state, Michigan should:

-  Make sure children who are lawful permanent residents have healthcare coverage under CHIP.
-  Provide state driver's licenses or identification cards for all residents.
-  Implement safe zone policies for schools, hospitals, clinics, workplaces and courts.
-  Ensure full language access at key state agencies for residents with limited English proficiency.

"A lot of immigrants can't get a license. So it either causes trouble on the roads or it means they can't get to work."

-Frank, Detroit



TIME FOR A TUNE-UP

Michigan has long been home to thousands of immigrants from all over the world. Immigrants in Michigan are students, workers, neighbors and business owners. They enrich our communities and help our state maintain a strong, modern economy. Over the past two years, immigrants have endured anti-immigrant rhetoric at the federal level and harmful policies that have led to painful family separation, loss of vital public services, and mass confusion and fear. Under new leadership, Michigan can be a leader in defending against a dangerous federal agenda by setting policies that protect families and help build a state where all residents can participate fully and thrive.



ABOUT THE OWNER'S MANUAL FOR MICHIGAN

We all agree Michigan needs a major tune-up. And like the real vehicles we all depend on, it takes a lot of components and tools to make our state go. Without good jobs and training, reliable healthcare, quality education, strong families, and a safe environment, our state can't run properly. That's why we've created a clear and comprehensive plan to help lawmakers on the road ahead—the Owner's Manual for Michigan.

REPAIRING THE PROBLEM:



HOW TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS IN MICHIGAN

- 1. Ensure long-term health and well-being for Michigan's children by providing coverage sooner to more children eligible for MICHild and Medicaid under CHIPRA.** CHIPRA (the federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act) creates an opportunity to provide children who are lawful permanent residents (or green card holders) and pregnant women with Medicaid access to healthcare without the typical five-year wait time. State leaders could choose to exercise this option by amending the state Medicaid plan and also exploring legislation to cover all children regardless of immigration status.
- 2. Provide access to driver's licenses or state identification cards for all residents.** Lack of driver's licenses means that many immigrants and residents who cannot prove citizenship are unable to obtain insurance or properly register their vehicles. Being able to drive is essential for getting to work, buying groceries and dropping kids off at school, for example. The Michigan Legislature must adopt a plan to get identification cards into the hands of all residents regardless of status.
- 3. Make communities safer by implementing safe zone policies.** Safe zone policies are grounded in the mission and legal obligations of schools, clinics, and other entities to protect the rights of students, patients and consumers. Creating safe zones could be accomplished through an executive order from the governor or guidance from the attorney General. It is also key that the state publish companion community education materials regarding the rights of immigrants to be safe and secure in these locations.
- 4. Ensure full language access at key state agencies for residents with limited English proficiency.** Language justice is key to building an inclusive Michigan. Many state agencies lack bilingual staff, interpretation resources, or appropriate language access plans and protocols to provide equal services to state residents with limited English proficiency. A comprehensive and fully-funded state language access policy is needed.

SHARING THE ROAD

Equity is of utmost importance when it comes to building a better Michigan. Immigrants who come from the same world region can have vastly different experiences in the United States due to race, socioeconomic status and level of English language proficiency. Immigrants of color, in particular, are more likely to experience discrimination and barriers to opportunity than their White counterparts. These barriers often take the form of residential segregation, limited access to well-paying, quality jobs, and poorly funded schools in their communities, among others. Public policies that address racial inequalities in health and economic well-being are needed to ensure that more families of color, both immigrant and U.S.-born, can thrive.



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