

REPORT ON THE
COST OF
ILLEGAL ALIENS
TO
NEW JERSEYANS
2026 Edition

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Ocean & Monmouth Co.
Assemblyman
Paul Kanitra

REPORT ON THE COST OF ILLEGAL ALIENS TO NEW JERSEYANS 2026 Edition

Background:

In May 2024, my office released the first edition of the *Report on the Cost of Illegal Aliens to New Jerseyans*. It was published during an unprecedented surge in illegal crossings at the United States - Mexico border under then-President Joe Biden. Using the best data available at the time, the report estimated that nearly 900,000 illegal aliens were residing in New Jersey and examined the resulting fiscal impacts on New Jersey taxpayers.

The report received significant public attention. It was covered by numerous news outlets, highlighted by President Donald J. Trump during his rally in Wildwood, New Jersey, on May 11, 2024, and has since been cited in subsequent policy research.¹

Since the publication of the first edition, both federal immigration policy and New Jersey law have changed substantially. Following his return to office in January 2025, President Trump made immigration enforcement a central priority of his Administration through increased removals, expanded interior enforcement, and policies encouraging voluntary self-deportation by individuals unlawfully present in the United States.^{2 3}

At the same time, New Jersey has largely maintained — and in several respects expanded — policies limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Under Governor Mikie Sherrill’s Administration, New Jersey has enacted or pursued measures that include restricting cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), prohibiting certain civil immigration enforcement activities on State property, banning the use of masks by law enforcement, limiting the sharing of immigration-status information by law enforcement,

¹ See Endnotes, related to media coverage of the first edition of this report

² Wolf, Zachary B. “Trump Explains His Plan to Deport 15-20 Million People.” *CNN*, May 1, 2024. <https://www.cnn.com/2024/05/01/politics/trump-immigration-what-matters/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

³ Inskeep, Steve, and Christopher Thomas. “Trump Promised the ‘Largest Deportation’ in U.S. History. Here’s How He Might Start.” *NPR*, November 12, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/2024/11/12/nx-s1-5181962/trump-promises-a-mass-deportation-on-day-1-what-might-that-look-like>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

creating a portal to report immigration enforcement activity, and codifying key provisions of Governor Phil Murphy’s Immigrant Trust Directive.^{4 5 6 7 8}

These developments make an updated assessment both timely and necessary.

This 2026 edition incorporates newly available federal and State data, updated budget information, recent academic research, and original research conducted by my office, including information obtained directly from New Jersey agencies. It updates the estimated illegal alien population present in New Jersey, examines the fiscal impacts of major State and local government programs, and presents the most comprehensive estimate to date of the annual costs associated with illegal aliens in New Jersey.

Summary:

After months of research, my office estimates that the fiscal cost associated with illegal aliens residing in New Jersey is approximately \$8.2 billion in 2026. Based upon the best information currently available, approximately 737,000 illegal aliens are estimated to be present in New Jersey as of January 2026.

\$8.2 Billion in 2026
737,000 Illegal Aliens
\$1,700 per Worker
\$2,300 per Household

Spread across New Jersey’s workforce, this represents a cost of more than \$1,700 per worker each year.⁹ Across all households in the State, the estimated cost exceeds \$2,300 per household annually.¹⁰

The estimates presented throughout this report are intended to be conservative. Whenever possible, they rely upon direct expenditure data published by federal and State agencies. Where official data are unavailable, the report employs transparent methodologies using demographic estimates, publicly available budget information, and reasonable assumptions designed to avoid overstating fiscal impacts.

⁴ “NJ Legislature.” 2026. New Jersey Legislature. 2026. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2026/S3114>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁵ “Federal Misconduct Reporting Portal - New Jersey Office of Attorney General.” 2026. *New Jersey Office of Attorney General*. <https://www.njoag.gov/portal/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶ Nieto-Munoz, Sophie. 2026. “NJ Urges Residents to Use New Website to Report ‘Harmful Conduct’ by ICE Agents • New Jersey Monitor.” *New Jersey Monitor*. <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2026/02/11/nj-new-website-report-ice-agents/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁷ “NJ Legislature.” 2026. New Jersey Legislature. 2026. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2026/A4071>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸ “NJ Legislature.” 2026. New Jersey Legislature. 2026. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2026/A4070>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “New Jersey Economy at a Glance.” *Bureau of Labor Statistics*. 2024. <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.nj.htm>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁰ United States Census Bureau. “New Jersey.” *U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: New Jersey*. 2023. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NJ/HSD410222>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

This report examines State and local fiscal costs associated with illegal aliens. It does not estimate direct federal expenditures, nor does it attempt to quantify broader economic effects — such as impacts on wages, economic output, or private-sector activity — except where specifically discussed for context. Likewise, this report is not intended to estimate the net fiscal impact of illegal immigration by subtracting tax revenues from government expenditures. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), for example, estimated that illegal aliens paid approximately \$1.33 billion in New Jersey State and local taxes in 2022.¹¹ Even accepting that estimate at face value, it represents roughly 16 percent of the approximately \$8.2 billion in estimated State and local fiscal costs presented in this report. Moreover, ITEP’s estimate is based on its own assumptions regarding population size, income levels, and tax compliance. Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) have both found, consistent with this report, that illegal aliens pay less in taxes than they utilize in direct and indirect benefits.^{12 13} Accordingly, this report focuses on estimating government expenditures associated with illegal immigration while acknowledging that some illegal aliens do pay certain State and local taxes.

For more than three decades, the FAIR has published national and state-level research on the fiscal impacts of illegal immigration.¹⁴ This report builds upon that body of work by incorporating more recent demographic data, newly available government information, original research conducted by my office, and New Jersey-specific analyses.

The purpose of this report is to provide legislators, policymakers, taxpayers, and the public with a transparent estimate of the fiscal costs associated with illegal immigration in New Jersey based upon the best information currently available.

¹¹ Davis, Carl, Marco Guzman, and Emma Sifre. 2024. “Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants.” *Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy*. <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>.

¹² Federation for American Immigration Reform. “The Cost of Illegal Immigration to American Taxpayers 2023.” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*. 2023. <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers-2023>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹³ Capuano, Michael. “Illegal Aliens Use Far More Taxpayer Funds Than They Contribute, CBO Confirms.” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*. June 9, 2025. <https://www.fairus.org/news/state-and-local/illegal-aliens-consume-taxpayer-funds>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁴ Federation for American Immigration Reform. “How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States? 2025 Update.” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*. 2025. <https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2025-update>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

The Numbers:

My office estimates that approximately 737,000 illegal aliens are present in the State of New Jersey as of January 2026.

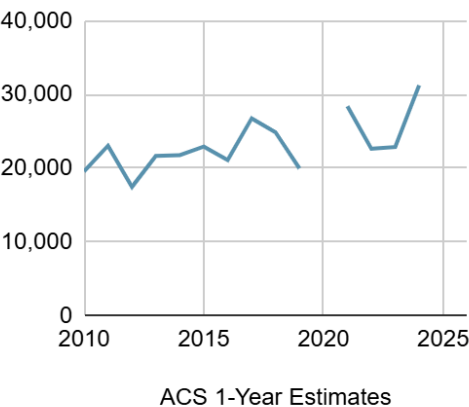
<i>FAIR Baseline:</i>	815,900
<i>Est. Deportations:</i>	-109,750
<i>Est. Net Interstate Migration:</i>	+31,000
<i>2026 Total (rounded):</i>	737,000

In December 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimated that approximately 2.5 million illegal aliens had either been deported or voluntarily self-deported.¹⁵ Because FAIR estimates that approximately 4.39 percent of the Union’s illegal alien population is present

in New Jersey, applying that share yields an estimated reduction of approximately 109,750 illegal aliens residing in the State.¹⁶

Although the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) does not identify immigration status or explain the reasons for migration, New Jersey’s protective immigration policies may be one factor influencing interstate migration decisions.^{17 18} The ACS data suggests that in 2024 New Jersey saw a 50 percent increase in net interstate non-citizen migration as compared to the 2010s.^{19 20} Because the ACS records all non-citizens rather than only illegal aliens, and because illegal aliens are widely believed to be undercounted in Census surveys, this report adopts a conservative

Moved from a different State to N.J. - Non-Citizen



¹⁵ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “Thanks to President Trump and Secretary Noem, More Than 2.5 Million Illegal Aliens Left the U.S.” *Department of Homeland Security*. December 10, 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/10/thanks-president-trump-and-secretary-noem-more-25-million-illegal-aliens-left-us>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁶ Federation for American Immigration Reform. “How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States? 2025 Update.” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*. March 7, 2025. <https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2025-update>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

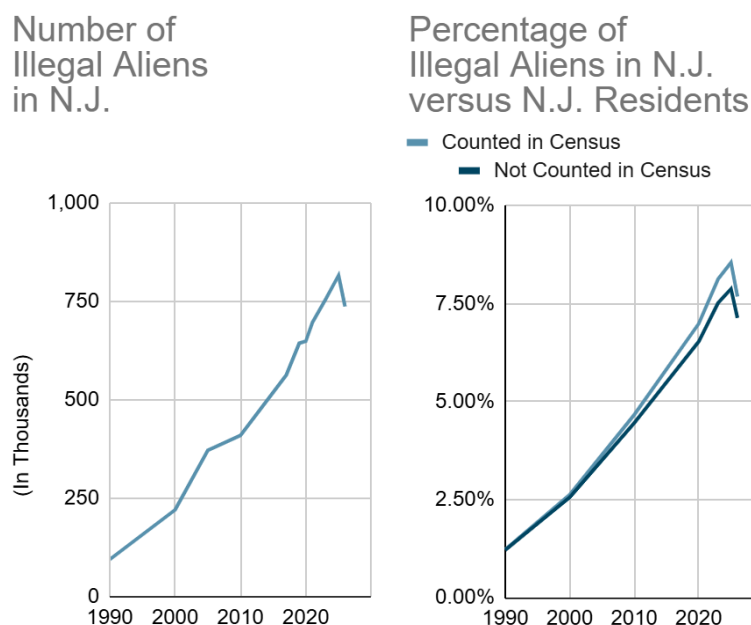
¹⁷ Jaclyn Diaz and Connie Hanzhang Jin, “Little-Used ICE Agreements with Local Police Have Exploded under Trump,” *NPR*, February 17, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/02/17/nx-s1-5707449/local-police-immigration-cooperation-287g>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁸ Rooney, Matt. 2026. “INSURRECTION: N.J. Legislature Passes Sanctuary Statehood Bill -.” *Savejersey.Com*. January 12, 2026. <https://savejersey.com/2026/01/insurrection-new-jersey-legislature-sanctuary-statehood-bill/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. “B07007: Geographical Mobility in the Past Year by Citizenship Status for Current Residence in the United States.” *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables*. 2024. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2024.B07007?q=B07007&g=040XX00US34>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁰ 2020 was omitted because of the lack of reliable data.

assumption that net interstate migration of illegal aliens into New Jersey totaled approximately 31,000 persons leading up to this year.²¹



Assuming that the rate in population change has remained identical to the rate in change from the 2020 Census and the 2025 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, there is estimated to be approximately 9.60 million persons in New Jersey.²² Taking our 2026 estimate for the State’s population and our 2026 estimated number of illegal aliens in the State, we find that nearly 1 in 13 (7.68 percent) people in New Jersey are illegal aliens.

***Somewhere between
7.13% and 7.68%
of those present in
New Jersey are here
Illegally***

In the graph titled “Percentage of Illegal Aliens in N.J. versus N.J. Residents,” you will find there are two lines. The first is “Counted in Census,” which should be understood as the percentage of illegal aliens in New Jersey if they were totally included in the U.S. Census count. The second is “Not Counted in Census,” which should be understood as the percentage of illegal aliens in New Jersey if they were not included in the U.S. Census count. Likely, the real percentage of illegal aliens in

New Jersey is somewhere in between these percentages — some illegal aliens having reported and others having not — but there is no way of quantifying this because the U.S. Census Bureau

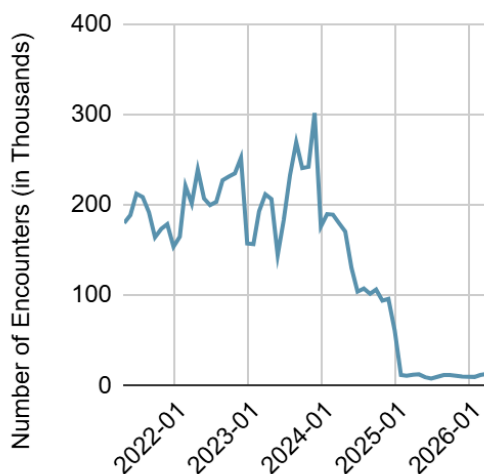
²¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Department of Homeland Security: Review of Report on Agency Estimates of Foreign Nationals Unlawfully Residing in the U.S.,” GAO-19-640R, September 10, 2019, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-640r>. Accessed July 8, 2026

²² United States Census Bureau. “New Jersey.” U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: New Jersey. 2025. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NJ/PST045223#PST045223>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

has not asked the question on the census in several decades.²³ That said, the Trump administration is looking into re-including a status question in some capacity in the 2030 U.S. census.²⁴

There had been a push by President Donald Trump at the end of his first term to include such a citizenship and legal status question in the 2020 U.S. Census to ensure apportionment of United States Representatives would be according to whether persons actually “reside in their states and this country lawfully.”²⁵ But the question was not included, leaving us with an imperfect picture on the true number of illegal aliens in these United States and New Jersey. The absence of citizenship or legal-status information also affects congressional redistricting and legislative

Number of Southern Border Encounters



apportionment. Areas with relatively large illegal alien populations receive representation based upon total population even though illegal aliens are ineligible to vote in New Jersey. Two counties in New Jersey — Hudson and Union — have particularly large concentrations leading to outsized representation.^{26 27 28}

It should also be noted that the number of apprehensions at the southern border since March of 2025 have collapsed.²⁹ This has primarily been due to President Trump’s return to the White House and his administration’s enforcement of existing U.S. laws.³⁰ Therefore it can be assumed that there is no real increase in the number of southern border crossing illegal aliens ending up in New Jersey.

²³ United States Census Bureau. “About the Foreign-Born Population.” *U.S. Census Bureau*. 2021. <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/foreign-born/about.html>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁴ Schneider, Mike. 2026. “Census Practice Test Includes Citizenship Question.” *AP News*. <https://apnews.com/article/census-citizenship-2030-trump-immigration-1e806923a9c78d203215af61023115bb>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁵ Wang, Hansi Lo. “Trump Issues Memo on the Census and Unauthorized Immigrants.” *NPR*. July 21, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/21/892340508/with-no-final-say-trump-wants-to-change-who-counts-for-dividing-up-congress-seat>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁶ Migration Policy Institute. “Profile of the Unauthorized Population: New Jersey.” *Migration Policy Institute*. 2023. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/NJ>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁷ Migration Policy Institute. “County Data (34017): Unauthorized Population.” *Migration Policy Institute*. 2023. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/county/34017>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁸ Migration Policy Institute. “County Data (34039): Unauthorized Population.” *Migration Policy Institute*. 2023. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/county/34039>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

²⁹ Congressional Budget Office. “The Demographic Outlook: 2024 to 2054.” *Congressional Budget Office*. January 2024. <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-01/59697-Demographic-Outlook.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

³⁰ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “Trump Administration Delivers 14 Straight Months of Zero Releases at the Border.” *Department of Homeland Security*. 2026. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/16/trump-administration-delivers-14-straight-months-zero-releases-border>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

Welfare Use:

Before diving into the cost of illegal aliens more specifically, first we should examine the general characteristics of illegal aliens' welfare usage as compared to U.S. citizens. According to the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), of households headed by non-citizens, 47 percent use one or more traditional welfare programs.³¹ That is a rate 19 percentage points higher than the 28 percent reported for U.S. citizen households. When eligibility for programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) is included, the rate increases to 57 percent for non-citizen households, compared with 34 percent for U.S. citizen households. Although welfare use varies by citizenship status, the CIS estimates that approximately 60.7 percent of households headed by illegal immigrants utilize at least one welfare program, including Medicaid, food assistance, school meal programs, and tax credits.

While illegal immigrants are generally ineligible for many federal benefits themselves, households may still receive assistance through U.S. born children or other eligible household members. These levels of benefit utilization contribute to the broader fiscal impact of illegal immigration by increasing demand for publicly funded programs and placing additional costs on federal, State, and local governments.

Driver's Licenses:

My office's analysis of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) records indicates that more than 100,000 individuals likely obtained a New Jersey driver's license using the affidavit process created after the enactment of P.L. 2019, c.271.³² Because this affidavit pathway is available only to applicants who cannot provide either a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, it serves as the best available proxy for estimating the number of illegal aliens who have obtained a New Jersey driver's license.

***Over 100,000
Illegal Aliens
have a
New Jersey
Driver's License***

In December 2019, in the lame duck session of the New Jersey Legislature, Governor Phil Murphy pushed through and signed A4743 (P.L. 2019, c.271), authorizing the issuance of New Jersey driver's licenses to applicants unable to demonstrate lawful presence in the United States — illegal aliens. The synopsis of A4743 clearly stated the intention: to allow “residents unable to prove lawful presence in [the] US to receive permits, and standard driver's licenses or

³¹ Camarota, Steven A., and Karen Zeigler. “Welfare Use by Non-Citizens Across States in the U.S.” *Center for Immigration Studies*. 2026. <https://cis.org/Report/Welfare-Use-NonCitizens-Across-States-US>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

³² Pizarro, Max. “Murphy Signs into Law Historic Driver's Licenses Bill.” *Insider NJ*. December 19, 2019. <https://www.insidernj.com/murphy-signs-historic-drivers-licenses/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

identification cards”.³³ And in 2021, New Jersey began allowing illegal aliens to apply for these forms of license and identification.³⁴

To determine the extent to which these licenses have been issued, my office requested data through the Office of Legislative Services (OLS), which in turn requested from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) the number of affidavits submitted in support of driver’s license applications, broken down by month and municipality. The MVC produced the requested data but provided the location data in the form of ZIP Codes, which my office then assigned to their various municipalities and counties.

Applicants who possess either a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are able to satisfy the law’s identification requirements through those documents. Applicants unable to provide either may instead qualify by submitting an affidavit authorized under P.L. 2019, c.271. Consequently, affidavit usage provides the best available proxy for estimating the number of illegal aliens who have



AFFIDAVIT OF NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER ID NUMBER
STANDARD DRIVER LICENSE OR NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARD ONLY

I, _____ born on _____ affirm the following:
 (print full legal name) (month/day/year)

- I have never been issued a Social Security number;
- I am not eligible for a Social Security number; **AND**
- I have never been issued an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

By signing this affidavit, I declare that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if any of the information provided by me is willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

 Applicant signature Date

DO NOT SIGN until in front of a Notary Public OR a Witness (over 18 years old). Choose **A or **B** below.**

OPTION A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY NOTARY PUBLIC:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) SS:
 COUNTY OF _____)

On _____, 20____, before me personally appeared _____, who signed this document in my presence and who has satisfactorily identified him/her/themselves as the signer of this document.

 Notary Name

[Affix Notary Stamp here]

 Notary Signature

My Commission Expires _____

OPTION B

FOR MVC USE ONLY: I personally witnessed _____ sign this affidavit.

 MVC Employee Initials/Date

 MVC Agency



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³³ New Jersey Legislature. “A4743 (2018–2019): Establishes two categories of driver’s licenses and identification cards; allows residents unable to prove lawful presence in U.S. to receive permits and standard driver’s licenses or identification cards.” *New Jersey Legislature*. 2019. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2018/A4743>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

³⁴ “New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.” 2021. Nj.Gov. 2021. <https://www.nj.gov/mvc/press/archives/2021/042921.htm>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

obtained New Jersey driver's licenses.^{35 36}

Because New Jersey law significantly limits public disclosure of affidavit records, independent verification is difficult.³⁷ My office encourages the federal government to pursue any lawful means available to obtain these records as part of its immigration enforcement efforts.

³⁵ New Jersey Legislature. "N.J. Rev. Stat. § 39:3-29.3 (2025): Identification Cards." *New Jersey Revised Statutes*. 2025. <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/title-39/section-39-3-29-3/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

In addition to requiring an applicant for an identification card [such as a standard driver's license] to submit satisfactory proof of identity, age [...] the chief administrator also shall require the applicant to provide:

(a) as a condition for obtaining a standard identification card, proof of the applicant's social security number and one document providing satisfactory proof that the applicant is a New Jersey resident. If the applicant does not have a social security number, the applicant shall either:

(i) provide satisfactory proof of an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; or

(ii) indicate, in a manner prescribed by the commission and consistent with all other provisions of P.L. 2019, c. 271 (C.39:3-10o et al.), that the applicant is not eligible to receive a social security number

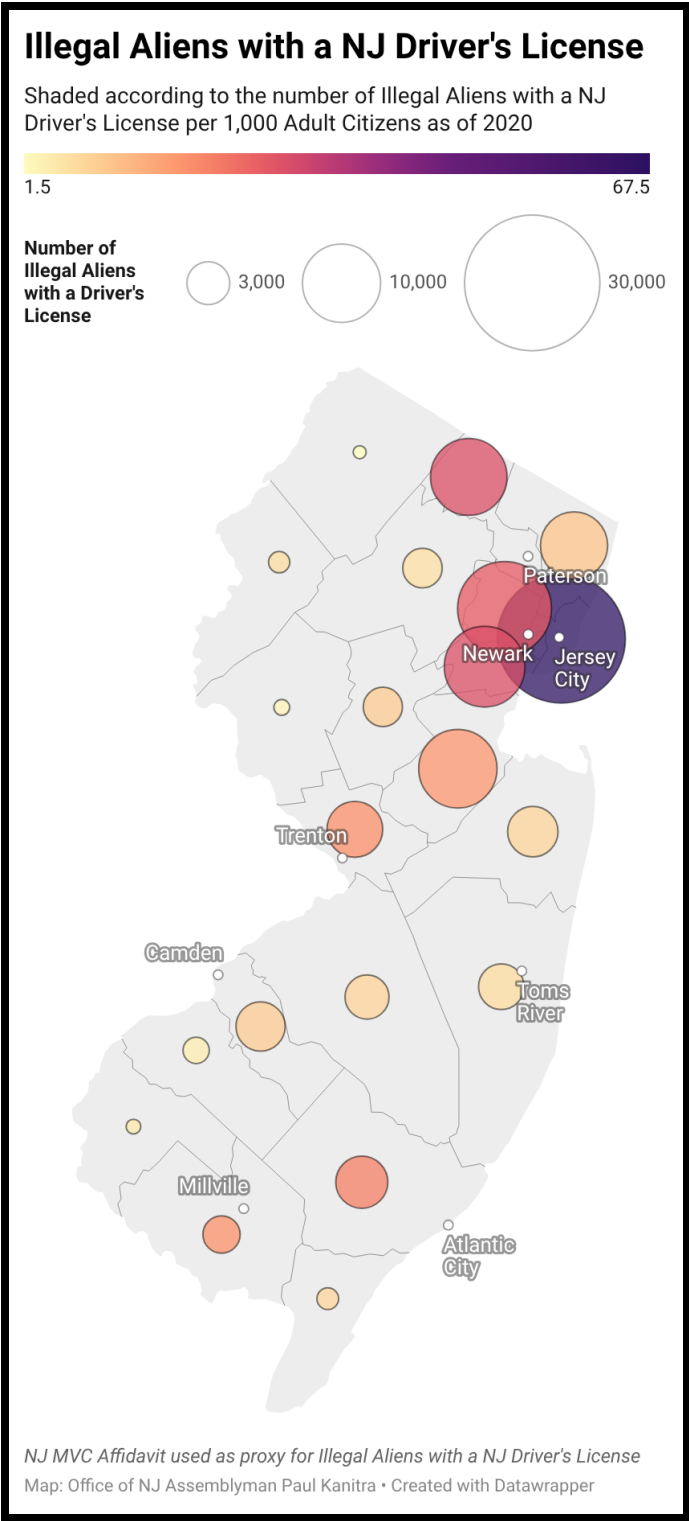
³⁶ New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. "Affidavit of No Social Security Number." *New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission*. <https://www.nj.gov/mvc/pdf/license/affidavit.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

³⁷ New Jersey Legislature. "N.J. Rev. Stat. § 39:3-10 (2025): Licensing of Drivers." *New Jersey Revised Statutes*. 2025. <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/title-39/section-39-3-10/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

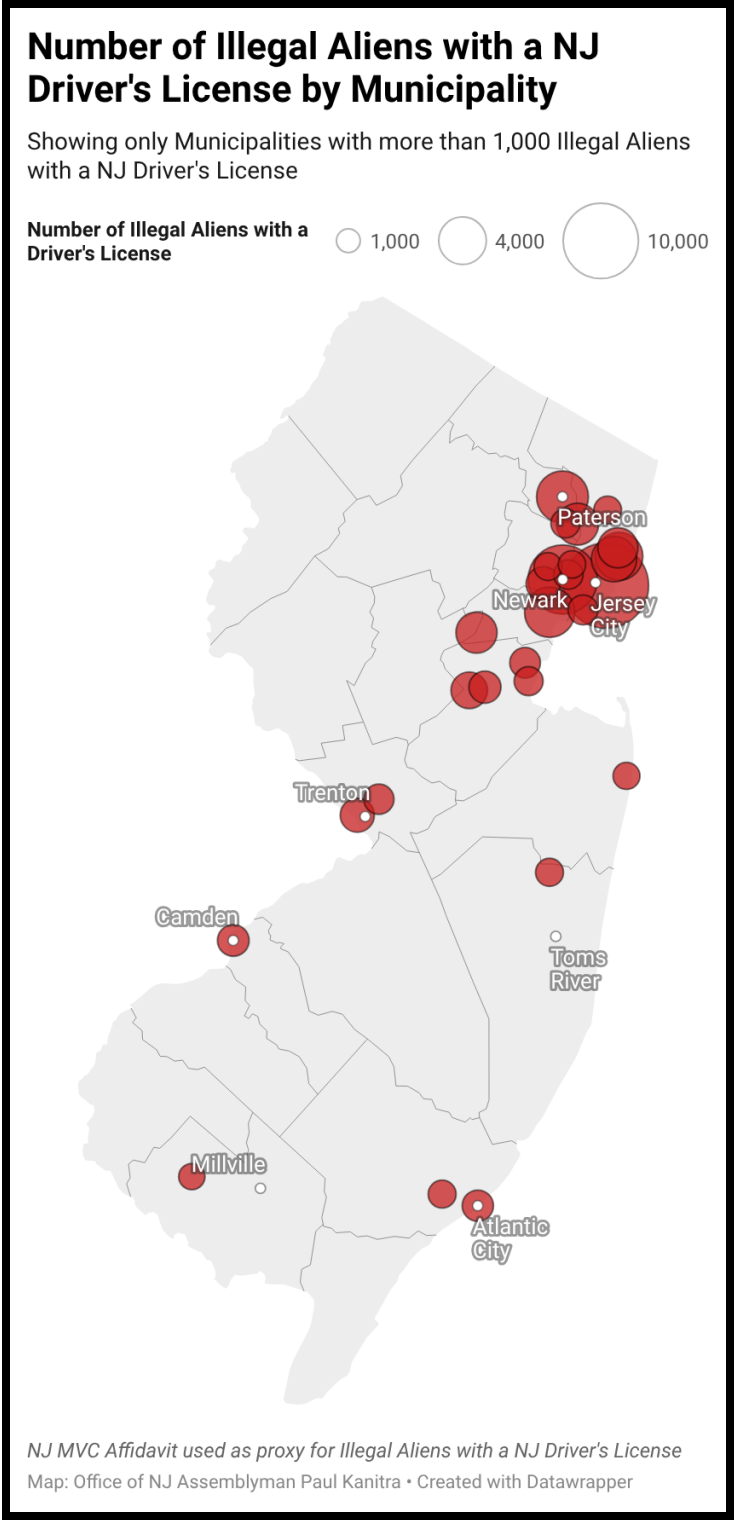
Any documents and personal information, including an applicant's photograph, obtained by the commission from an applicant for a standard basic driver's license [...] shall be confidential, shall not be considered a government record [...] and shall not be disclosed by the commission for any purpose related to Title 8 of the United States Code [with governs aliens] without the informed consent of the applicant, a warrant signed by a State or federal judge, or a lawful court order or subpoena; except that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit, or in any way restrict, any action where such prohibition or restriction would be contrary to federal law.

[...]

Information regarding an applicant's Individual Tax Identification Number, social security number, or ineligibility to receive a social security number obtained by the commission for the issuance of a standard motorcycle license or standard basic driver's license pursuant to this section, shall not be considered a government record pursuant to P.L. 1963, c. 73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L. 2001, c. 404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or the common law concerning access to government records, and shall not be disclosed by the commission except where: (1) required by section 11 of P.L. 1998, c. 1 (C.2A:17-56.60); (2) the applicant provides written informed consent to the disclosure; (3) the requesting entity presents a warrant signed by a State or federal judge, a lawful court order, or a subpoena; (4) required by State or federal law, and to the extent that the disclosure may be necessary to permit the State to participate in the National Driver Register program, as set forth in 49 U.S.C. s.30301 et seq.; or (5) the disclosure is in connection with an audit or investigation of identity fraud, driver's license fraud, or non-driver identification card fraud.



The analysis reveals substantial geographic concentration. Hudson County contains far more affidavit-based driver’s licenses than would be expected solely on its share of New Jersey’s adult citizen population, with approximately 280 percent more licenses than expected under a proportional distribution.



N.J. Municipalities with more than 1,000 Illegal Aliens with a Driver's License					
	Municipality	Num. of Illegal Aliens with a DL		Municipality	Num. of Illegal Aliens with a DL
1	Jersey City	12,837	15	Atlantic City	1,495
2	Newark	8,306	16	Woodbridge	1,485
3	Paterson	4,510	17	Hamilton	1,374
4	Elizabeth	4,211	18	Bayonne	1,345
5	West New York	3,781	19	Harrison	1,302
6	Union City	3,360	20	Clifton	1,263
7	Passaic	2,852	21	Perth Amboy	1,257
8	Plainfield	2,733	22	Lakewood	1,158
9	North Bergen	2,590	23	Pleasantville	1,155
10	New Brunswick	2,105	24	East Orange	1,144
11	Irvington	1,829	25	Hackensack	1,143
12	Trenton	1,813	26	Kearny	1,103
13	Edison	1,584	27	Long Branch	1,066
14	Camden	1,534	28	Bridgeton	1,010
NJ MVC Affidavit Proxy for Illegal Aliens with a Driver's License					
Office of NJ Assemblyman Paul Kanitra					

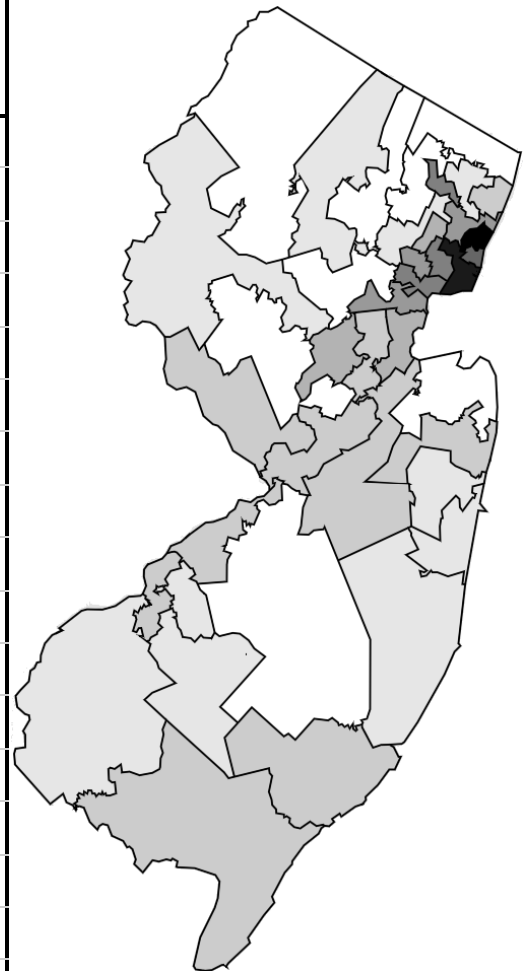
Although only 28 municipalities exceed 1,000 affidavit-based driver's licenses, those municipalities account for 65.4 percent of the statewide total. The largest concentrations are located in and around Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, Elizabeth, and neighboring municipalities.

Illegal Aliens with a Driver's License by N.J. Legislative Districts

	Legislative District		Num. of Illegal Aliens with a DL		Legislative District		Num. of Illegal Aliens with a DL
1	33	DD	10,184	21	12	RR	2,106
2	31	DD	9,294	22	2	DR	2,079
3	32	DD	6,094	23	38	DD	2,031
4	29	DD	5,617	24	3	DD	1,999
5	35	DD	5,344	25	27	DD	1,949
6	20	DD	5,237	26	6	DD	1,600
7	28	DD	4,987	27	25	DR	1,581
8	22	DD	4,368	28	23	RR	1,565
9	36	DD	4,177	29	30	DR	1,489
10	17	DD	3,191	30	4	DD	1,187
11	34	DD	3,139	31	9	RR	1,134
12	19	DD	2,977	32	10	RR	1,024
13	1	RR	2,800	33	21	DD	834
14	37	DD	2,696	34	26	RR	707
15	15	DD	2,693	35	16	DD	695
16	5	DD	2,619	36	8	DD	678
17	18	DD	2,464	37	40	RR	473
18	11	DD	2,385	38	24	RR	373
19	7	DD	2,376	39	13	RR	362
20	14	DD	2,207	40	39	RR	318

NJ MVC Affidavit Proxy for Illegal Aliens with a Driver's License

Office of NJ Assemblyman Paul Kanitra



**Legislative Districts
shaded by number of
Illegal Aliens
with a Driver's License**

10% greyscale increase
for every 1,000

The concentration is similarly evident when analyzed by legislative districts. Districts 33 and 31 alone account for 17.9 percent of all affidavit-based driver's licenses despite containing only 5.10 percent of New Jersey's population.

The issuance of driver's licenses does not itself represent a direct fiscal cost and is therefore not included in this report's cost calculations. However, these records provide one of the clearest publicly available indicators of the geographic distribution and concentration of illegal aliens within New Jersey. That information provides important context for understanding the fiscal impacts discussed throughout the remainder of this report.

Housing:

Housing represents one of the largest costs borne by New Jersey residents.³⁸ Illegal aliens can affect housing in two distinct ways. First, additional population increases demand for housing, placing upward pressure on home prices and rents. Second, some households that include illegal aliens may receive publicly funded housing assistance through programs that serve mixed-status families. This section examines both the market effects and the direct fiscal costs.

In March 2026, economists at the Federal Reserve published *The Impacts of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Labor and Housing Markets: New Evidence from Administrative Microdata*, the first study to estimate the causal effect of illegal aliens on local housing markets using administrative microdata.³⁹ The authors found that “unauthorized immigrant worker flows” (UIWF) explained approximately 30 percent of house-price growth and 20 percent of rent growth during the 2021 to 2024 boom.

Although the study does not publish state-specific estimates for New Jersey, it does provide estimates for metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Under the study's median MSA scenario, UIWF represented approximately 1.3 percent of initial employment, producing an estimated 2.9 percent increase in home prices and a 1.9 percent increase in rents. Under the weighted-average MSA scenario, UIWF represented approximately 3.1 percent of initial employment, producing an estimated 6.6 percent increase in home prices and a 4.3 percent increase in rents.

Importantly, the study independently identified that “particularly around the New York City metropolitan area,” which contains the majority of New Jersey's population, experiencing the largest UIWF in the nation. As a result, New Jersey's housing market likely more closely resembles the weighted-average scenario than the median scenario.

³⁸ O'Dea, Colleen. 2025. “Census Data Confirms NJ's High Incomes, High Housing Costs | NJ Spotlight News.” *NJ Spotlight News*. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/nj-is-high-income-high-cost-state-census-data-shows/>.

³⁹ Wilson, Daniel J., and Xiaoqing Zhou. “The Impacts of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Labor and Housing Markets: New Evidence from Administrative Microdata.” *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*. 2026. <https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/papers/2026/wp2607.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

To estimate the impact on New Jersey homeowners, this report combines the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) All-Transactions House Price Index with regional home-value estimates published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.^{40 41 42 43 44 45 46} Current home values were deflated using each metropolitan area's own FHFA index to approximate typical home values in the first quarter of 2021, allowing the Federal Reserve's estimated housing effects to be applied consistently across New Jersey's metropolitan areas.

⁴⁰ U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for New York–Jersey City–White Plains, NY–NJ (MSAD) (ATNHPIUS35614Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS35614Q>.

⁴¹ U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for Newark, NJ–PA (MSAD) (ATNHPIUS35084Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS35084Q>

⁴² U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for Trenton–Princeton, NJ (MSA) (ATNHPIUS45940Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS45940Q>

⁴³ U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for Vineland–Bridgeton, NJ (MSA) (ATNHPIUS47220Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS47220Q>

⁴⁴ U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for Atlantic City–Hammonton, NJ (MSA) (ATNHPIUS12100Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS12100Q>

⁴⁵ U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency. *All-Transactions House Price Index for Camden, NJ (MSAD) (ATNHPIUS15804Q)*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED. Accessed July 29, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ATNHPIUS15804Q>

⁴⁶ “Regional Economy: Local Area Conditions - FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of NEW YORK.” 2025. Newyorkfed.Org. 2025. <https://www.newyorkfed.org/regional-economy/local-area-conditions>. Accessed July 29, 2026.

Illustration of Illegal Alien Impact on Home Prices				
FHFA Metropolitan Division / Area	Counties Covered	Typical Home Value Q1 2021	Median MSA (+2.9%)	Average MSA (+6.6%)
New York - Jersey City - White Plains, NY-NJ	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic	\$429,900	\$12,470	\$28,370
Newark, NJ-PA	Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union	\$383,500	\$11,120	\$25,310
Trenton - Princeton, NJ	Mercer	\$253,100	\$7,340	\$16,700
Vineland - Bridgeton, NJ	Cumberland	\$186,000	\$5,390	\$12,280
Atlantic City - Hammonton, NJ	Atlantic	\$171,000	\$4,960	\$11,290
Camden, NJ (part of Philadelphia - Camden - Wilmington MSA)	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester	\$164,600	\$4,770	\$10,860
Illustration based on the "The Impacts of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Labor and Housing Markets: New Evidence from Administrative Microdata" Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas - 2026				
Office of NJ Assemblyman Paul Kanitra				

Applying the Federal Reserve's estimates suggests that illegal aliens may have increased the price of a typical New Jersey home by approximately \$4,770 to \$28,370, depending upon the level of UIWF. Given New Jersey's inclusion within one of the nation's highest UIWF regions, the actual effect is likely toward the upper end of this range.

A similar methodology was applied to rental housing using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rent (FMR) data.⁴⁷ Early-2021 rent levels were approximated by deflating the most recent HUD metropolitan FMR estimates using the statewide growth in New Jersey's average two-bedroom Fair Market Rent between FY2021 and FY2025.⁴⁸ Applying the Federal Reserve's estimated rent effects suggests that illegal aliens may have increased monthly rents by approximately \$24 to \$79 for a typical New Jersey rental unit, with the weighted-average estimate again appearing more representative of New Jersey's housing market.^{49 50 51}

⁴⁷ Wilson, Daniel J., and Xiaoqing Zhou. "The Impacts of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Labor and Housing Markets: New Evidence from Administrative Microdata." *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*. 2026.

<https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/papers/2026/wp2607.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁴⁸ "FY 2025 Fair Market Rent Documentation System — Statewide Summary For." 2025. *Huduser.Gov*.

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2025_code/2025state_summary.odn. Accessed July 29, 2026.

⁴⁹ "2024 Fair Market Rent in New Jersey | RentData.Org." 2024. *Rentdata.Org*. 2024.

<https://www.rentdata.org/states/new-jersey/2021>. Accessed July 29, 2026.

⁵⁰ "2024 Fair Market Rent in New Jersey | RentData.Org." 2024. *Rentdata.Org*. 2024.

<https://www.rentdata.org/states/new-jersey/2024>. Accessed July 29, 2026.

⁵¹ "2025 Fair Market Rent in New Jersey | RentData.Org." 2025. *Rentdata.Org*. 2025.

<https://www.rentdata.org/states/new-jersey/2025>. Accessed July 29, 2026.

Illustration of Illegal Alien Impact on Rent Prices				
HUD Metro FMR Area (parent MSA)	Counties Covered	Two-Bedroom Rent Early-2021	Median MSA (+1.9%)	Average MSA (+4.3%)
Jersey City, NJ (part of NY - Newark - Jersey City MSA)	Hudson	\$1,844/mo	\$35/mo	\$79/mo
Bergen - Passaic, NJ (part of NY - Newark - Jersey City MSA)	Bergen, Passaic	\$1,662/mo	\$32/mo	\$71/mo
Newark, NJ (part of NY - Newark - Jersey City MSA)	Essex, Morris	\$1,717/mo	\$33/mo	\$74/mo
Middlesex - Somerset - Hunterdon, NJ (part of NY - Newark - Jersey City MSA)	Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon	\$1,746/mo	\$33/mo	\$75/mo
Monmouth - Ocean, NJ (part of NY - Newark - Jersey City MSA)	Monmouth, Ocean	\$1,637/mo	\$31/mo	\$70/mo
Trenton, NJ (Trenton-Princeton MSA)	Mercer	\$1,627/mo	\$31/mo	\$70/mo
Vineland-Bridgeton, NJ	Cumberland	\$1,277/mo	\$24/mo	\$55/mo
Atlantic City-Hammonton, NJ	Atlantic	\$1,379/mo	\$26/mo	\$59/mo
Philadelphia - Camden - Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester	\$1,446/mo	\$27/mo	\$62/mo
Illustration based on the "The Impacts of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Labor and Housing Markets: New Evidence from Administrative Microdata" Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas - 2026				
Office of NJ Assemblyman Paul Kanitra				

These increased housing costs represent a significant economic burden borne by New Jersey residents. However, they do not constitute direct expenditures by state or local government. Accordingly, the estimated increases in home prices and rents are not included in this report's calculation of the fiscal cost of illegal aliens.

While higher housing prices affect nearly every New Jersey resident, taxpayer-funded housing assistance represents a separate category of fiscal cost.

Demand for housing assistance has increased substantially in recent years.⁵² Since 2021, homelessness in New Jersey has increased by approximately 69.8 percent, an annualized growth rate of roughly 14.0 percent per year, placing increasing pressure on the State's homelessness response system.⁵³

To assist service providers working with immigrant households, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) has developed a resource guide titled *Housing Resources for Immigrant Population*.⁵⁴ The guide provides housing information and referrals for child welfare teams assisting immigrant youth and families throughout New Jersey. Among the programs identified are several funded through the federal Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

Undocumented Persons Are they eligible for these housing services?	*DACA Are they eligible for these housing services?
Street Outreach Services-Yes	Street Outreach Services- Yes
Emergency Shelter-Yes (through CoC)	Emergency Shelter- Yes (through CoC)
Safe Haven: Yes (through CoC)	Safe Haven: Yes (through CoC)
Rapid Re-Housing: Only through CoC, not State funded Rapid Rehousing program	Rapid Re-Housing: Only through CoC, not State funded Rapid Rehousing program
Homelessness Prevention Program: No	Homelessness Prevention Program: No
Transitional Housing through CoC or ESG recipient: Yes	Transitional Housing through CoC or ESG recipient: Yes
Non-Cash disaster relief: Yes	Non-Cash disaster relief: Yes
In-kind Services for the protection of life and safety: Yes	In-kind Services for the protection of life and safety: Yes
Programs administered by non-profit charitable organizations: Yes	Programs administered by non-profit charitable organizations: Yes
Affordable/Subsidized Housing: No	Affordable/Subsidized Housing: No
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV): No	Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV): No
Emergency Housing Vouchers: Yes, if eligible	Emergency Housing Vouchers: No
State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP): No	State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP): No
Emergency Assistance (EA): No	Emergency Assistance (EA): No
Social Service for the Homeless (SSH): No	Social Service for the Homeless (SSH): No
*Refugees/Asylees qualify for the same services as Undocumented persons.	*DACA is a special population of individuals that came to the U.S. as children. They are eligible for work authorization and are protected from deportation for 2 years at a time.

Although federal law generally prohibits illegal aliens from receiving housing assistance directly, federal housing regulations presently permit assistance to be provided to mixed-status

⁵² Obando, Genesis. "NJ's Homeless Population Has Risen, Now More Than 10,000." *NJ Spotlight News*. August 16, 2023. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/10000-plus-people-homeless-nj/>. Accessed July 8, 2026. (njspotlightnews.org)

⁵³ "NJ Counts." 2025. Monarch Housing Associates. <https://monarchhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PIT-Report-2025-New-Jersey.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁵⁴ New Jersey Department of Children and Families. "Housing Resource for Immigrant Population." *NJ.gov*. 2023. <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/documents/DCF-OLA-Housing-Resource-for-Immigrant-Population.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

households.⁵⁵ Under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules, a household containing both eligible and ineligible members is not automatically denied assistance. Instead, the housing subsidy is prorated based upon the number of eligible household members.

In practice, this means an illegal alien parent may enter New Jersey’s coordinated entry system with his or her family based upon homelessness and vulnerability. If eligible household members — most commonly U.S. born children — qualify for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or another CoC program, the family may receive housing assistance even though the illegal alien parent is not personally eligible for the subsidy. The parent may lawfully reside in the assisted housing unit as part of the household while the federally funded assistance is prorated to reflect only the eligible family members.

These eligibility rules allow many households containing illegal aliens to receive meaningful access to CoC housing resources despite the ineligibility of certain household members.

***Housing Services
for Illegal Aliens
cost about
\$5.02 million
in 2026***

Using the approximately \$66.0 million in CoC funding awarded to New Jersey in 2024, adjusted to 2026 dollars, and applying a conservative estimate based upon New Jersey’s estimated illegal alien population share, this report estimates that approximately \$5.02 million in CoC housing assistance is associated with households containing illegal aliens in 2026.^{56 57}

This estimate is intentionally conservative. It assumes that households containing illegal aliens utilize CoC services at the same rate as the general population. Because illegal aliens generally have lower household incomes and higher poverty rates than the overall population, actual utilization of homelessness assistance programs may exceed this estimate.⁵⁸

Food Assistance Programs:

Many State-funded food security initiatives serve the same low-income households that participate in SNAP. Because direct data on immigration status are unavailable, this report estimates participation by using household SNAP utilization rates as a proxy.

⁵⁵ “HUD Publishes Mixed-Status Families Proposed Rule with Comments Due April 21; Keep Families Together Campaign Launches; Take Action!” 2026. *National Low Income Housing Coalition*.

<https://nlihc.org/resource/hud-publishes-mixed-status-families-proposed-rule-comments-due-april-21-keep-families>.

⁵⁶ “CoC Award Summary Reports by Component and Project Type.” Hudexchange.Info.

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/awards-by-component/?filter_Year=&filter_Scope=State&filter_State=NJ&filter_CoC=&program=CoC&group=AwardComp.

⁵⁷ CoinNews Media Group LLC. “U.S. Inflation Calculator.” *US Inflation Calculator*.

<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁵⁸ Migration Policy Institute. “Profile of the Unauthorized Population: New Jersey.” *Migration Policy Institute*. 2023. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/NJ>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

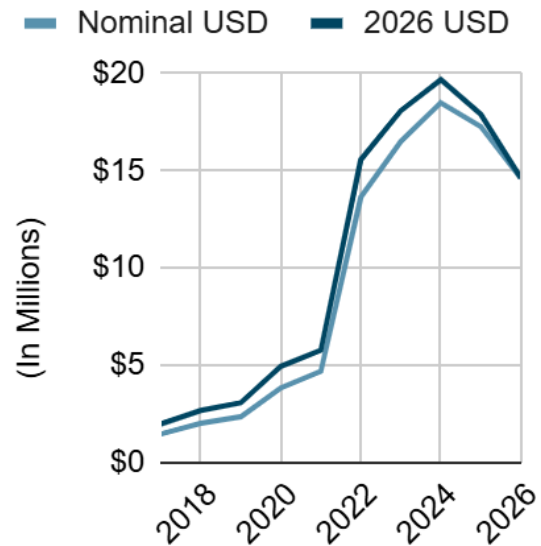
In December of 2025, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) found that 17 percent of illegal alien households take advantage of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).⁵⁹

Using this report's estimate of approximately 737,000 illegal aliens and New Jersey's average household size of approximately 2.62 persons, there are an estimated 281,000 households containing illegal aliens.⁶⁰ Applying the CIS estimate that 17 percent of illegal-alien households participate in SNAP results in approximately 48,000 SNAP households. As of December 2025, approximately 430,000 households participated in SNAP in New Jersey.⁶¹ Consequently, households headed by illegal aliens may account for roughly 11 percent of all SNAP households statewide.

Starting in 2021, there was a massive expansion of New Jersey spending on Food Security which included SNAP and support for food banks.⁶² For Fiscal Year 2027, New Jersey appropriated approximately \$131 million for food security initiatives, including SNAP administration, food bank support, and related nutrition programs.⁶⁴ If participation in these State-funded food security programs is broadly proportional to SNAP participation, that would result in about \$14.6 million that is benefiting illegal aliens this year.

This report estimates only State-funded food security expenditures. Federal SNAP benefit payments are not included unless they require matching or administrative expenditures by New Jersey taxpayers.

Food Security for Illegal Aliens in N.J.



⁵⁹ Camarota, Steven A. "Illegal Immigrants to Be Hit Hard as SNAP and WIC Benefits Expire." *Center for Immigration Studies*. 2025. Accessed July 8, 2026.

<https://cis.org/Camarota/Illegal-Immigrants-Be-Hit-Hard-SNAP-and-WIC-Benefits-Expire>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. "New Jersey." *U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts*. 2025. Accessed July 8, 2026.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NJ/PST045225>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶¹ Johnson, Natasha. 2025. "December 2025 Current Program Statistics."

https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/news/reports/pdf/cps/2025/CPS_December2025.pdf. Accessed July 8, 2026

⁶² New Jersey Office of Management and Budget. *The Governor's FY 2026 Budget: Budget in Brief—Summary of Budget Recommendations*. Trenton, NJ: State of New Jersey, 2025.

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/26bib/BIB.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶³ Hurdle, Jon. 2024. "NJ's Complex Food-Aid System Is Changing." *NJ Spotlight News*.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/special-report/nj-food-insecurity-grows-food-banks-government-agencies-philanthropies-try-to-adapt/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶⁴ New Jersey Office of Management and Budget. *The Governor's FY 2027 Budget: Budget in Brief—Summary of Budget Recommendations*. Trenton, NJ: State of New Jersey, 2026.

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/27bib/BIB.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

Legal Defense:

In 2018, the new Democratic Party trifecta created a program known as the Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative (DDDI) to provide free legal assistance to those aliens facing detention and deportation by the federal government.⁶⁵ Initially allocated \$2.1 million, growing to \$3.1 million in 2019 and 2020, doubled to \$6.2 million in 2021, then held steady at \$8.2 million from 2022 through 2025.⁶⁶ ⁶⁷ These annual expenditures were confirmed by my office through Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests sent to the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS).

***In 2026, nearly
\$26.1 million was
appropriated for
defending
Illegal Aliens
in Court***

In 2021 a parallel program was established called Kids In Need of Defense (KIND) with an appropriation of \$3 million.⁶⁸ Another budget line was added for the same general purpose called “Legal Services to Unaccompanied Minors” to the tune of \$4.5 million in 2022.⁶⁹ In 2023, it was temporarily boosted to \$7.5 million. In 2024 it was winding down to \$6 million and in 2025 just \$5.35 million. Likewise, these annual expenditures were confirmed by my office through OPRA requests sent to DHS.

Even in the midst of a budget challenge, Governor Sherrill announced a \$12 million increase for the DDDI on top of the regular appropriation.⁷⁰ ⁷¹ ⁷² And the legislature returned to raising the spending for KIND to \$5.85 million. The 2026 total taxpayer funding allocated for the legal defense of aliens facing deportation is nearly \$26.1 million.

⁶⁵ New Jersey Office of Management and Budget. “The Governor’s FY 2019 Budget Detailed Budget.” *NJ.gov*. 2018. <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/pdf/FY19BudgetBook.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶⁶ New Jersey Department of Human Services and New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. “New American Integration Report.” *NJ.gov*. 2020. <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/NJ%20ONA%20Report%20-%20Final%2010.14.2020.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶⁷ New Jersey Legislature. “Senate, No. 2022.” *New Jersey Legislature*. 2021. https://pub.njleg.gov/bills/2020/S2500/2022_I1.pdf. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children. “2023 Annual Report.” *NJCIC*. 2023. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6270343397fdb3056f3ee9f2/t/656610408f217e32e91ab3a8/1701187649703/Annual+Report+-NEW.pdf>. Accessed July 8, 2026. (njcic.org)

⁷⁰ New Jersey Office of the Governor. “Protecting Due Process: Governor Murphy Launches Initiatives to Resist Unconstitutional Immigration Detention and Enforcement by the Trump Administration.” *NJ.gov*. 2026. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/2026/20260604a.shtml>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

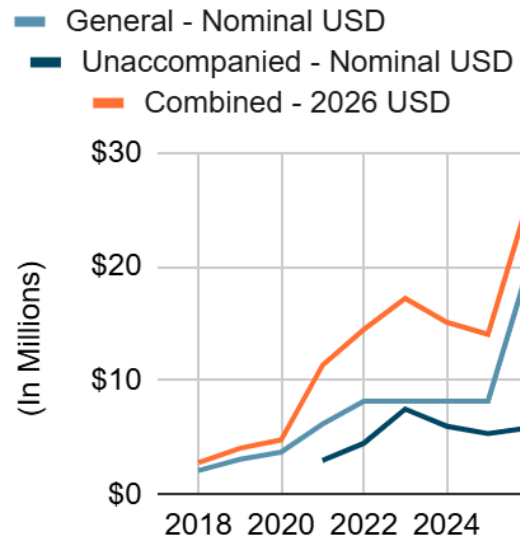
⁷¹ Blackburn, Zach. “Sherrill Announces Plan to Boost Legal Assistance Funds for Delaney Hall Detainees, Low-Income Residents.” *New Jersey Globe*. 2026. <https://newjerseyglobe.com/governor/sherrill-announces-plan-to-boost-legal-assistance-funds-for-delaney-hall-detainees-low-income-residents/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁷² Save Jersey. “Sherrill’s Latest Priority? \$12 Million More for ICE Detainee Legal Defense.” *Save Jersey*. 2026. <https://savejersey.com/2026/06/sherrills-latest-priority-12-million-more-for-ice-detainee-legal-defense/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

New Jersey has seen these two programs grow in eight years to over 800 percent of their original appropriations, adjusted for inflation.⁷³ These programs are one of the most clear examples of the benefits that illegal aliens receive in this State. And these programs have become especially important in an age of increased deportation efforts.

Separately, the State also bears the cost of defending her own sanctuary-style laws when they are challenged in court — a distinct expense from the direct legal aid described above, since this money pays the State’s own attorneys rather than aliens’ counsel. My office asked OLS to estimate this cost.⁷⁴ OLS reported that the precise total is not fully determinable from public information, because the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS) has not isolated the time its attorneys spend on these matters from their broader caseload. Using the two cost components that are publicly identifiable — federal court filing fees and the salaries of the Office of the Attorney General attorneys who served as counsel of record — OLS identified ten lawsuits since 2018 in which the State defended, either as a party or as amicus, laws protecting undocumented individuals, including litigation over New Jersey’s ICE-detention-facility ban, its non-cooperation and sanctuary policies, and multiple 2026 suits brought against the State by the federal government.⁷⁵

Legal Defense for Illegal Aliens in N.J.



⁷³ CoinNews Media Group LLC. “U.S. Inflation Calculator.” *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁷⁴ Getman, Grace. “Estimated cost to the State to defend State laws that protect undocumented individuals.” Office of Legislative Services. 2026. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services. Accessed July 30, 2026.

⁷⁵ CoreCivic, Inc. v. Murphy, 690 F. Supp. 3d 467;
CoreCivic, Inc. v. Governor of N.J., 145 F.4th 315;
Nolan v. Grewal, 2022 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 114;
Ocean Cty. Bd. of Comm’rs v. AG of N.J., 8 F.4th 176;
Cty. of Ocean v. Grewal, 475 F. Supp. 3d 355;
United States v. New Jersey, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14089;
United States v. City of Newark, 2026 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140426;
United States v. New Jersey, 3:26-cv-01770 (Executive Order No.12);
United States v. New Jersey, 3:26-cv-4755 (Mask Ban); and
United States v. New Jersey, 3:26-cv-04862 (In-State Tuition)

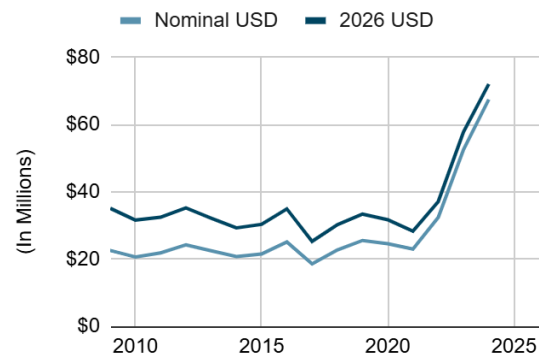
Nineteen attorneys were identified as counsel of record across these matters, including senior officials such as Solicitor General Jeremy Feigenbaum. OLS calculated the attorneys' combined annual salaries for the years in question at \$4,323,946, plus \$505 in federal filing fees, for a maximum estimated litigation defense cost of \$4,324,451. OLS cautioned that this figure is likely an overestimate, since it attributes each attorney's full annual salary to this litigation even though none worked on these matters exclusively, while also excluding paralegal time, discovery costs, expert witnesses, and administrative expenses. Because DLPS could not confirm actual attorney-hours devoted to this litigation, this report includes the \$4.3 million figure as an upper-bound illustration rather than a confirmed expenditure, and does not add it to the report's total cost calculation.

***Up to \$4.3 million
was spent defending
Sanctuary-Style
laws in court
since 2018***

Medical Care:

Medical expenditures associated with illegal aliens arise through two primary mechanisms. First, federal law requires hospitals to provide emergency medical care regardless of a patient's immigration status or ability to pay. Second, New Jersey has adopted programs that provide publicly funded health coverage to certain illegal aliens, most notably through the Cover All Kids (CAK) initiative. Together, these programs represent one of the largest healthcare-related fiscal impacts identified in this report.

Emergency Services for
Illegal Aliens in N.J.



Since the enactment of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) in 1986, hospitals participating in Medicare have been required to provide an appropriate medical screening examination and any necessary stabilizing treatment to individuals presenting with an emergency medical condition, regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay.^{76 77} Because nearly every acute-care hospital participates in Medicare, these obligations apply to virtually every hospital in New Jersey.

⁷⁶ Legal Information Institute. "42 U.S. Code § 1395dd — Examination and Treatment for Emergency Medical Conditions and Women in Labor." *Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute*. 1986. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/1395dd>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁷⁷ Acevedo, Ana, Elizabeth Whidden, Francisco Zepeda, K. Jane Muir, and D. Daphne Owen. 2025. "Evaluating Emergency Department Utilization among Undocumented Patients Receiving Care at a Community Health Clinic." *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, July. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-025-01723-9>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

The most recent data available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) show that New Jersey received \$67.4 million in federal Emergency Medicaid payments for services provided to illegal aliens during 2024.⁷⁸ Adjusted to 2026 dollars, this equals approximately \$72.0 million, the highest level ever recorded for the State.⁷⁹

The growth in these expenditures over time has been substantial. Expressed in inflation-adjusted 2026 dollars:

Federal Administration	Avg. Annual Emergency Medical Spending	
	2026 USD	Obama Admin. Baseline
Obama	\$32.6 million	
Trump (first term)	\$30.1 million	-7.67%
Biden (2021 & 2022)	\$32.7 million	0.23%
Biden (2023)	\$57.8 million	77.19%
Biden (2024)	\$72.0 million	120.86%
Office of Assemblyman Paul Kanitra		

***In 2024, \$72 million
was spent on hospital
services for Illegal Aliens,
in today's dollars***

Emergency medical spending during President Biden’s final year was approximately 121 percent higher than the Obama Administration average and 139 percent higher than the Trump Administration average. The first edition of this report projected that the surge in illegal immigration could produce record emergency medical expenditures. The 2024 CMS data confirm that this occurred.

Emergency medical treatment is only one component of New Jersey’s healthcare expenditures.

⁷⁸ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. “Expenditure Reports from MBES/CBES.” *Medicaid*. 2024. <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/financial-management/state-expenditure-reporting-for-medicare-chip/expenditure-reports-mbes/cbes>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

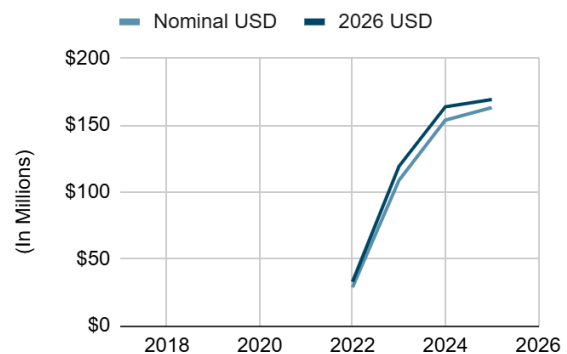
⁷⁹ CoinNews Media Group LLC. “U.S. Inflation Calculator.” *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

In 2021, Governor Phil Murphy launched the Cover All Kids (CAK) initiative to expand NJ FamilyCare eligibility to all income-eligible children regardless of immigration status.^{80 81} Phase II of the initiative, implemented in 2023, extended publicly funded healthcare coverage to children who are unlawfully present in the United States.

Initial projections anticipated that approximately 16,000 illegal alien minors would enroll in the program.⁸² By Fiscal Year 2025, however, enrollment had exceeded 44,000 children — nearly three times the original estimate.⁸³

When the program was first proposed, New Jersey Policy Perspective estimated that full implementation would cost approximately \$66.5 million annually, or roughly \$88.4 million in 2026 dollars after adjusting for inflation.^{84 85}

Cover All Kids for
Illegal Aliens in N.J.



To determine the program’s current cost, my office requested an updated estimate from the Office of Legislative Services (OLS).⁸⁶ OLS reported that the analysis was complicated because Cover All Kids does not receive a separate budget appropriation and instead operates within the broader NJ FamilyCare program. In addition, available Department of Human Services data are incomplete for certain fiscal years, particularly during the initial implementation period.

Using the best information available from the Department of Human Services, OLS estimates that annual expenditures associated with Cover All Kids have now grown to more than \$169

⁸⁰ New Jersey Department of Human Services. “Department of Human Services | Human Services Providing \$1.5 Million in Grants to Help Get More Uninsured but Eligible Kids Enrolled in NJ FamilyCare.” *NJ.gov*. 2023.

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2023/approved/20230809.shtml>. Accessed July 8, 2026. <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2021/approved/20210330.shtml>.

⁸¹ New Jersey Office of the Governor. “Governor Murphy Highlights Cover All Kids Initiative to Provide All New Jersey Kids with Health Insurance.” *NJ.gov*. 2021.

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/20210330b.shtml>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸² Schmidt, Sarah. “Informal Fiscal Analysis of Assembly Bill, No. 1701.” *Office of Legislative Services*. 2024. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸³ Myers, Nathan. “Cover All Kids Phase II: Enrollment and Expenditures.” *Office of Legislative Services*. 2026. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services. Accessed July 24, 2026.

⁸⁴ Stainton, Lilo H. “Blueprint for Universal Health Insurance for NJ Kids, Including Undocumented.” *NJ Spotlight News*. 2018.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2018/01/18-01-24-blueprint-for-universal-health-insurance-for-nj-kids-including-undocumented/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸⁵ “CoinNews Media Group LLC. “U.S. Inflation Calculator.” *US Inflation Calculator*.

<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸⁶ Myers, Nathan. “Cover All Kids Phase II: Enrollment and Expenditures.” *Office of Legislative Services*. 2026. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services. Accessed July 24, 2026.

million — nearly double the inflation-adjusted projection published when the program was first proposed.⁸⁷

Healthcare expenditures could increase substantially beyond current levels. Legislation introduced in the New Jersey Legislature would expand publicly funded “comprehensive health care coverage to undocumented immigrant aliens.”⁸⁸ OLS estimated that the proposal would cost at least \$684 million annually if enacted.⁸⁹

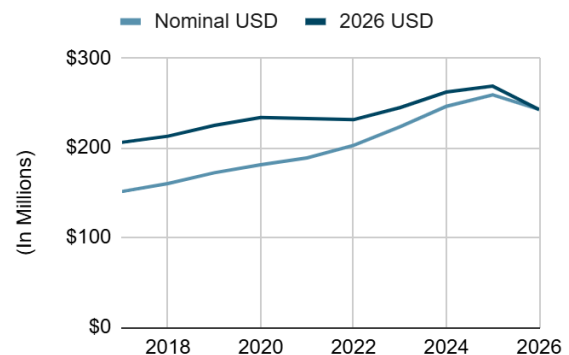
Although this proposal has not become law, it illustrates the magnitude of additional healthcare expenditures that could result from future expansions of eligibility.

General Government Administration:

In addition to direct benefit programs, New Jersey residents rely on a broad range of government administrative services necessary for the operation of State and local government. These services include financial administration, courts and legal systems, recordkeeping, regulatory functions, and general government operations. Many of these services are provided based upon residency or interaction with government institutions rather than immigration status. As a result, individuals present in New Jersey — including illegal aliens — utilize portions of these government functions.

To estimate the administrative cost associated with illegal aliens’ use of government services, this report uses expenditure data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau through its annual survey of state and local government finances.⁹⁰ These data provide a consistent measure of government expenditures across several categories of public administration.

Gov’t Admin. spent on
Illegal Aliens in N.J.



⁸⁷ New Jersey Legislature, Office of Legislative Services. *Analysis of the New Jersey Budget: Department of Human Services—Fiscal Year 2025–2027*. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services, 2024. https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/publications/budget/governors-budget/2025/dhs_analysis_2025.pdf. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸⁸ New Jersey Legislature. “Bill A1357.” *New Jersey Legislature*. 2026. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2026/A1357>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁸⁹ Schmidt, Sarah. “Informal Fiscal Analysis of Assembly Bill, No. 1701.” *Office of Legislative Services*. 2024. Trenton, NJ: Office of Legislative Services. Accessed July 12, 2026.

⁹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. “State and Local Government Finances Datasets and Tables.” *Census Bureau*. 2024. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances/data/datasets.All.List_1883146942.html#list-tab-List_1883146942. Accessed July 8, 2026.

The analysis examines three expenditure categories most relevant to general government operations:

Financial Administration: this category includes government accounting, budgeting, auditing, treasury operations, and other financial management functions. New Jersey spent approximately \$923 million on these activities in 2025.

Judicial and Legal Administration: this category includes courts, legal services, and other judicial operations. New Jersey spent approximately \$1.82 billion in this category in 2025. Because some judicial and legal expenditures involve programs specifically designed to assist illegal aliens with immigration matters, those direct program costs are excluded before calculating the general administrative share.

Other Government Administration: this category captures administrative functions not included elsewhere, including general government support operations. New Jersey spent approximately \$566 million in this category in 2025.

Together, these categories represented approximately \$3.40 billion in State and local government expenditures in 2025.

***Estimated General
Government Administrative
Costs associated with
Illegal Aliens: \$243 Million***

Using this report's conservative estimate that illegal aliens represent approximately 7.13 percent of New Jersey's population, applying that share to general government administrative expenditures, and adjusting for inflation, produces an estimated \$243 million in government administrative services associated with illegal aliens in 2026.⁹¹

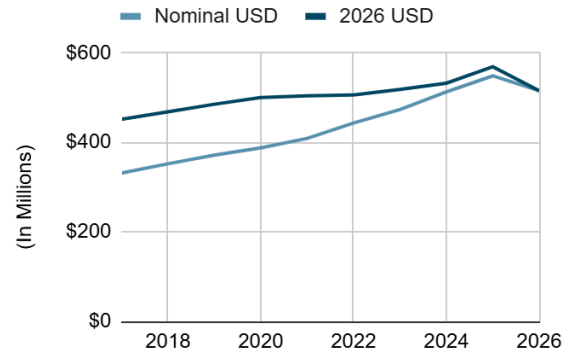
This estimate should be viewed as an allocation of general government costs rather than a direct program expenditure. Unlike programs where eligibility and enrollment data are available, general administrative services are provided broadly to residents and cannot be assigned to individual populations with precision. Nevertheless, these costs represent a portion of the government infrastructure required to serve all persons present in New Jersey.

⁹¹ CoinNews Media Group LLC. "U.S. Inflation Calculator." *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

Public Safety & Essential Services:

In addition to direct assistance programs, all residents of New Jersey benefit from essential government services funded by taxpayers. These services include law enforcement, fire protection, corrections, wastewater management, and solid waste management. Because these services are generally provided based upon residence or need rather than immigration status, individuals residing in New Jersey — including illegal aliens — utilize a portion of these publicly funded systems. New Jersey's policies limiting State and local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement mean that many interactions with local government occur without immigration-status inquiries. For example, police respond to reported crimes, firefighters respond to emergencies, and municipalities continue providing sanitation and wastewater services regardless of a resident's immigration status.

Public Safety spent on Illegal Aliens in N.J.



To estimate the portion of these expenditures associated with illegal aliens, this report applies the same population-based methodology used in the General Government Administration section. Specifically, the estimated share of New Jersey's population residing illegally is applied to statewide expenditures in relevant service categories.

In 2025, New Jersey spent approximately:⁹²

- \$4.16 billion on police protection;
- \$1.19 billion on corrections;
- \$926 million on fire protection;
- \$353 million on sewerage services; and
- \$339 million on solid waste management.

Combined, these categories represented approximately \$6.96 billion in statewide expenditures during 2025.

Applying this report's conservative estimate that illegal aliens represent approximately 7.38 percent of New Jersey's population and adjusting for inflation produces an estimated \$515

⁹² U.S. Census Bureau. "State and Local Government Finances Datasets and Tables." *Census Bureau*. 2021. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances/data/datasets.All.List_1883146942.html#list-tab-List_1883146942. Accessed July 8, 2026.

million in public safety and essential government services associated with illegal aliens in 2026.⁹³

***Estimated Public
Safety & Essential
Services associated
with Illegal Aliens:
\$515 million***

This estimate represents the population-based share of services provided to all residents and should not be interpreted as a direct expenditure line item. Actual costs vary depending upon service utilization, enforcement policies, and individual circumstances.

If New Jersey begins utilizing State and local law enforcement resources specifically for large-scale immigration enforcement operations, those expenditures would represent a separate category of costs and would not be included in this estimate.

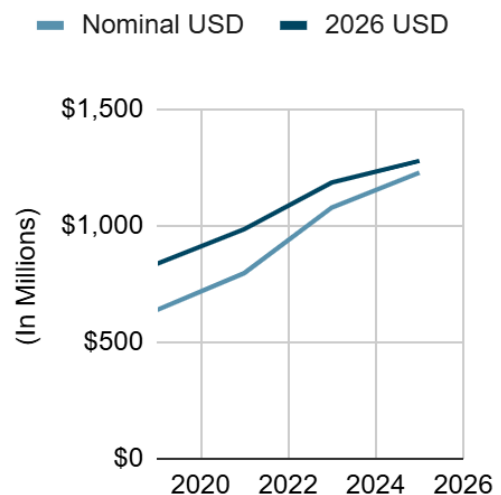
Education:

In *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), the United States Supreme Court held — five to four — that States providing free public education to resident children may not deny that education based upon a child’s unlawful immigration status.⁹⁴ As a result, New Jersey has been required to provide K-12 public education to illegal alien minors within the State.⁹⁵

Neither the New Jersey Department of Education nor the federal government publishes the number of illegal alien students enrolled in New Jersey public schools. Accordingly, this report relies on estimates published by the Migration Policy Institute and updates them using the best available demographic information.

The Migration Policy Institute estimated approximately 28,000 illegal alien minors enrolled in New Jersey schools in 2019 and 36,000 in 2023.⁹⁶ Extrapolating that trend through 2026 produces an estimated 41,000 illegal alien minors enrolled in New Jersey schools.

**K-12 Costs of
Illegal Aliens in N.J.**



⁹³ CoinNews Media Group LLC. “U.S. Inflation Calculator.” *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁹⁴ *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982). United States Supreme Court. Decided June 15, 1982.

⁹⁵ Najarro, Ileana, and Daniela Franco Brown. “Which States Are Challenging or Protecting Undocumented Students’ Right to Free Education?” *Education Week*. 2025. <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/which-states-are-challenging-undocumented-students-right-to-free-education/2025/03>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁹⁶ Migration Policy Institute. “Profile of the Unauthorized Population — NJ.” *Migration Policy Institute*. 2019. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/NJ>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

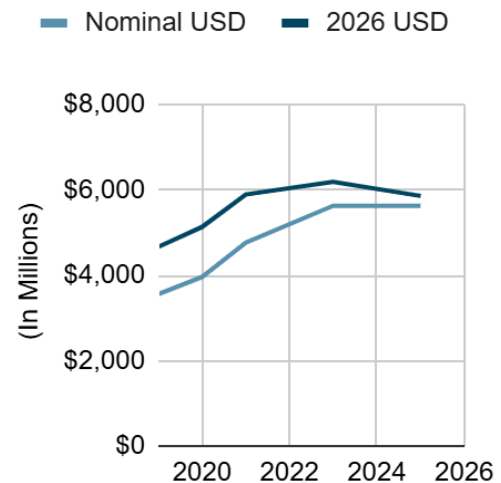
Illegal Alien Minors cost New Jerseyans \$1.28 Billion

According to the New Jersey Department of Education, the average per-pupil expenditure during the 2023-2024 school year was \$29,978.⁹⁷ Applying that average cost to the estimated 41,000 illegal alien students results in an estimated annual education cost of approximately \$1.23 billion in 2024. Adjusted to 2026 dollars, the estimated annual cost is approximately \$1.28 billion.⁹⁸

This report also estimates the public education costs associated with U.S. born children whose parents are illegal aliens. Since the presence of these children in New Jersey is ultimately attributable to the unlawful presence of at least one parent, this report includes these education expenditures when estimating the broader fiscal effects associated with illegal aliens. This same methodology was utilized by FAIR and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).^{99 100} The FAIR estimated that approximately 260,000 U.S. born children in New Jersey had at least one illegal alien parent in 2023.¹⁰¹ To remain conservative, this report assumes that this population has remained constant through 2026.

Assuming these children are distributed approximately evenly across birth cohorts and attend public school during the typical school-age years, approximately 188,000 are estimated to be enrolled in elementary or secondary education. Applying New Jersey's average per-pupil expenditure produces an estimated education cost of approximately \$5.63 billion in 2024. Adjusted to 2026 dollars, this equals approximately \$5.86 billion annually.¹⁰²

K-12 Costs of Illegal Aliens' Children in N.J.



⁹⁷ New Jersey Department of Education. "Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending." *NJ.gov*. 2025. <https://www.nj.gov/education/guide/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁹⁸ CoinNews Media Group LLC. "U.S. Inflation Calculator." *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

⁹⁹ "The Elephant in the Classroom: Mass Immigration Imposing Colossal Cost and Challenges on Public Education | FAIRUS.Org." 2022. *Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIRUS.Org)*. <https://www.fairus.org/issue/elephant-classroom-mass-immigration-imposing-colossal-cost-and-challenges-public-education>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁰⁰ Congressional Budget Office. 2024. "Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy | Congressional Budget Office." *www.cbo.gov*. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/60569>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁰¹ Guzman, Isaac. "How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States? 2023 Update." *Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)*. 2023.

<https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2023-update>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁰² CoinNews Media Group LLC. "U.S. Inflation Calculator." *US Inflation Calculator*. <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

Combined, K-12 education expenditures associated with illegal alien minors and the U.S. born children of illegal aliens total approximately \$7.14 billion annually, representing roughly 87 percent of the total fiscal impact estimated in this report. Education is therefore, by a substantial margin, the largest cost category examined. This is why several States have begun looking into challenging *Plyler* and organizations have advocated for overturning the ruling.^{103 104}

These estimates also exclude any incremental costs associated with English language learner (ELL) services, bilingual education, translators, specialized instructional programs, or other educational supports that may be required for students from households with limited English proficiency.^{105 106} Consequently, the estimates presented here should be viewed as conservative.

***Children of
Illegal Alien cost
New Jerseyans
\$5.86 Billion***

On May 9, 2018, Governor Phil Murphy signed S699 into law, allowing certain illegal aliens meeting statutory requirements to qualify for New Jersey financial aid at public institutions of higher education.¹⁰⁷

During 2019, the first full year following enactment, New Jersey spent approximately \$3.8 million providing financial aid to 749 illegal alien students.¹⁰⁸ Given the substantial increase in New Jersey's illegal alien population during the Biden Administration, both participation and expenditures have likely increased since that time. However the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) has not published an updated total since 2019, this report will conservatively use the documented \$3.8 million figure in its fiscal estimates.

Because neither the State nor the federal government publishes comprehensive immigration-status data for public school enrollment, these estimates necessarily rely upon demographic estimates and reasonable assumptions.

¹⁰³ Ries, Lora. 2026. "Every State Should Challenge Plyler v. Doe: Time to End Free Education for Illegal Alien K-12 Students." *The Heritage Foundation*.

<https://www.heritage.org/border-security/report/every-state-should-challenge-plyler-v-doe-time-end-free-education-illegal-0>. Accessed July 8, 2026

¹⁰⁴ DeAngelis, Corey. 2026. "Overturning an Outlandish Supreme Court Ruling Is the Only Way To Fix Education." *The Heritage Foundation*.

<https://www.heritage.org/courts/commentary/overturning-outlandish-supreme-court-ruling-the-only-way-fix-education>. Accessed July 8, 2026

¹⁰⁵ O'Connor, Julie. 2026. "More Students Need to Learn English as a New Language. What Are Schools Doing to Help? | NJ Spotlight News." *NJ Spotlight News*.

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¹⁰⁶ Dupree, Allen, Dr. John Augenblick, and Justin Silverstein. n.d. "Report on the Cost of Education." *New Jersey Department of Education*. Accessed July 8, 2026. <https://www.nj.gov/education/stateaid/docs/report.pdf>.

¹⁰⁷ New Jersey Legislature. "Bill S699." 2018. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2018/S699>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

¹⁰⁸ NJ 101.5. "NJ Gave \$3.8 Million in Financial Aid to Undocumented Immigrant College Students." *New Jersey 101.5*. 2019. <https://nj1015.com/nj-gave-nearly-4-million-in-tuition-help-to-unauthorized-immigrants/>. Accessed July 8, 2026.

Legislation to Consider:

Concrete proposals are needed to address the presence of illegal aliens in New Jersey. Here are a few we should consider.

- I. Bills where Assemblyman Kantira is a Prime Sponsor
 - A. A307 - Requires Secretary of State to adjust census redistricting data to remove noncitizens for redistricting purposes in this State.
 - B. A308 - "Illegal Alien Healthcare Transparency Act"; requires health care facilities to inquire and report on immigration status of patients and to report certain costs of care.
 - C. A309 - "Jillian's Law", mandates institutional commitment for certain persons found not competent to stand trial.
 - D. A311 - Requires certification that persons directly or indirectly receiving State monies or privileges are not unauthorized aliens.
 - E. A312 - Establishes "Defend our Educational Resources Act."
 - F. A313 - "Restoring the Representation of Legal Residents Act;" requires Secretary of State to adjust census apportionment and redistricting data to remove illegal alien population for apportionment and redistricting purposes in this State.
 - G. A314 - "Enhanced ID Act"; requires MVC to create and issue enhanced driver's licenses and enhanced non-driver identification cards.
 - H. A317 - "Protecting Mail-in Voters Act"; requires those who vote by mail to enclose copy of personal identification.
 - I. A322 - "Immigration Enforcement Support Act"; authorizes law enforcement agency to detain and transfer to federal immigration authorities persons illegally in State; provides compensation to law enforcement agency for deportation.
 - J. A323 - "Protecting Legally-Present Youngsters' Limited Educational Resources Act"; requires students who are not U.S. citizens or legal immigrants to pay tuition to attend public schools.
 - K. A325 - "Imprisoning Illegal Aliens Act;" allows State and local entities and private detention facilities to enter into agreements to detain noncitizens.
 - L. A328 - "Unifying Families and Bringing them Home Act"; requires AG to establish program to relocated persons unlawfully in State.
 - M. A330 - "Public Charge Transparency Act"; requires State entities which provide government assistance to inquire and record beneficiary's citizenship or immigration status and report cost of government assistance to illegal aliens.
 - N. ACR23 - Expresses support for "Equal Representation Act."
 - O. AR20 - Urges U.S. Congress to remove federal courts' jurisdiction in certain education matters, or alternatively, overturn certain prior case law.

II. Other Bills

- A. A668 - Requires registered voters to present photo ID when voting at polling place.
- B. A739 - Requires driver's licenses and identification cards issued to non-citizens to bear distinct color and include statement providing document cannot be used to vote; requires identification to vote.
- C. A5176 - Repeals codification of AG directive, "Strengthening Trust Between Law Enforcement and Immigrant Communities."
- D. A5177 - Repeals law requiring law enforcement officers to reveal facial identity during certain public interactions and to present sufficient identification prior to arresting or detaining person.
- E. A153 - Prohibits municipal ordinance to create sanctuary city; establishes State and local employee ethics violation upon noncompliance with federal immigration enforcement request.
- F. A1835 - Requires AG to repeal law enforcement directive restricting law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities.
- G. A2779 - Excludes certain illegal aliens from workers' compensation and temporary disability benefits.
- H. A2959 - Prohibits employment of illegal aliens and requires use of E-Verify program in public contracts.
- I. A3144 - Directs AG to enter into agreement with U.S. Attorney General to empower certain corrections officers to investigate immigration status of inmates.
- J. A4638 - Prohibits the employment of unauthorized aliens and requires employers to use E-Verify program.

2026 Cost of Illegal Aliens	
Topic	Cost
Illegal Alien portion of Housing **	\$5,020,000
Legal Services for Aliens facing Detention or Deportation	\$20,200,000
Legal Services for Unaccompanied Alien Minors	\$7,500,000
Food Security for Illegal Aliens	\$14,634,419
Emergency Medical Services for Illegal Aliens **	\$71,993,346
Cover All Kids Expansion Medical for Illegal Alien Minors	\$169,000,000
Illegal Alien portion of Gov't Admin. *	\$242,669,593
Illegal Alien portion of Public Safety *	\$515,344,380
College Grants opened to Illegal Aliens	\$3,800,000
K - 12 Education of Illegal Alien Minors ***	\$1,279,415,950
K - 12 Education of Minors of an Illegal Alien ***	\$5,859,655,704
Total	\$8,189,233,391
Cost to NJ per Illegal Alien	\$11,106
Cost to each NJ Worker	\$1,748
Cost to each NJ Household	\$2,335
Notes:	
	*** 2023; Inflation Adj
	** 2024; Inflation Adj
	* 2025; Inflation Adj

Insane Increases						
For & Caused By						
Illegal Aliens						
Subject	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Total Increase	Annual Increase
Legal Defense for Illegal Aliens	2018	\$2,800,000	2026	\$26,050,000	830%	104%
Number of Illegal Aliens in New Jersey	1990	95,000	2025	815,900	759%	21.7%
Cover All Kids Expansion Medical for Illegal Alien Minors	2022	\$32,700,000	2026	\$169,000,000	417%	104%
Illegal Aliens with Driver's License	2022	35,700	2026	109,000	205%	51.3%
Emergency Medical Services for Illegal Aliens	2020	\$28,300,000	2024	\$72,000,000	154%	38.6%
Education for Illegal Alien Minors	2019	\$837,000,000	2025	\$1,280,000,000	53%	8.8%
Inflation Adjusted						
Office of NJ Assemblyman Paul Kanitra						

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