

# Washington state's Recovery Rebate must **include immigrants**

House Bill 1297 includes ITIN filers in the Working Families Tax Credit

## **ITIN filers, which includes many undocumented immigrants, are critical members of our community**

Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) filers are an important group of taxpayers, which includes undocumented immigrants, some survivors of domestic violence, and others. ITIN filers are routinely left out of state and federal tax credits as well as recent federal stimulus efforts, despite being critical members of our community and workplaces.

**House Bill 1297 updates the Working Families Tax Credit to ensure ITIN filers are included in Washington state's Recovery Rebate.** This will support ITIN filers in meeting their essential needs, like rent, groceries, child care, and unexpected costs.



**An ITIN allows people without a Social Security Number to file taxes**



**ITIN filers are an important group of taxpayers, including:**

- ✓ Undocumented immigrants
- ✓ Certain student visa holders
- ✓ Some spouses and children of people with employment visas
- ✓ Some survivors of domestic violence

## **ITIN filers are routinely left out of recovery efforts despite contributing heavily to Washington state's communities and economy**

ITIN filers in Washington state contributed more than \$300 million in state and local taxes in Washington state in 2017 alone,<sup>1</sup> and undocumented workers paid one of the highest effective tax rates compared with other states.

**Since the start of the pandemic, immigrants in Washington state have been wrongly excluded from approximately \$1 billion in state and federal cash assistance.<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Federal pandemic relief</b>	Federal economic relief efforts – including expanded unemployment insurance and stimulus checks – exclude undocumented immigrants and their families.
<b>Federal tax credits</b>	ITIN filers are excluded from critical income-boosting tax credits, such as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These essential credits also exclude families with multiple immigration statuses present.

**Including ITIN filers in the Recovery Rebate alongside other benefits, like increased investment in the Washington Immigrant Relief Fund, will begin to address this exclusion of immigrants from economic support**



1. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), "Undocumented immigrants' state and local tax contributions," March 2017, <https://itep.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/immigration2017.pdf>

2. Washington State Budget & Policy Center estimates based on Migration Policy Institute and Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy analysis of undocumented and mixed status families ineligible for stimulus payments and undocumented labor force participation. See [our brief](#) for further description of methodology.