

# The Working Families Tax Credit will help support undocumented and mixed-status families in Washington state

## ITIN filers, who pay taxes but are often left out of federal supports, are eligible for this new annual cash payment

People who file their taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are an important group of taxpayers which includes undocumented immigrants and some survivors of domestic violence. ITIN filers are routinely left out of state and federal tax credits, including recent federal stimulus efforts, despite being essential members of our community and economy.

**But there's good news in Washington state: All taxpayers, including people who file with an ITIN, are included in the Working Families Tax Credit.** This credit will support families and individuals in meeting their essential needs, like rent, groceries, child care, and unexpected costs.



A two-parent household with three kids making \$55,000 a year will receive a \$1,200 boost from the WFTC.



A single parent household with one kid making \$18.00 per hour will receive a \$600 boost from the WFTC.

## Here are just some of the reasons why including ITIN filers in the Working Families Tax Credit is important for undocumented workers

- 1 Immigrants support our economy and community.**  
Undocumented workers in Washington state contributed more than \$370 million in state and local taxes in 2017 alone, and paid one of the highest effective tax rates compared with other states.<sup>1</sup>
- 2 But they are often wrongly excluded from economic relief.**  
People who file with an ITIN are excluded from critical income-boosting tax credits, such as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Federal economic relief efforts – including expanded unemployment insurance and stimulus checks – have also excluded undocumented immigrants and their families.
- 3 In just the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, immigrants in Washington state were wrongly excluded from approximately \$1 billion in state and federal cash assistance.<sup>2</sup>**



### What is an ITIN

An ITIN is a taxpayer identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Service to people who are not eligible for a Social Security Number. ITINs are used only for tax purposes.



### Who uses an ITIN to file taxes?

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

# Including ITIN filers in the Working Families Tax Credit, alongside other state benefits, like increased investment in the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund, will begin to address this exclusion of immigrants from economic support.



“We all pay taxes regardless of status. This payment will be the relief to meet essential needs like rent, food, and home-related expenses”

**Maricela**

*Mom and advocate for immigrants with OneAmerica, Renton*



## Common questions about the Working Families Tax Credit for ITIN filers

### Do I need to apply for the Working Families Tax Credit?

Yes, you will need to apply for the Working Families Tax Credit. The credit is not automatically paid. Find resources on how to apply at [www.WaTaxCredit.org](http://www.WaTaxCredit.org).

### Will receiving the WFTC affect my visa application or ability to receive a green card in the future?

No. The Working Families Tax Credit does not count as a public benefit under the public charge rule and cannot affect your visa application status.

### Is my information safe?

Yes! Your information, and that of your children, is safe and cannot be shared with any other state or federal agency, including ICE.

### Is this money a loan?

No, the WFTC is not a loan. This cash rebate is free, unrestricted cash to use as you need.

### Is the Working Families Tax Credit connected to the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund?

No. These are two unrelated payments, with separate applications. The Working Families Tax Credit will not affect your Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund payment.

## Common questions about applying for an ITIN

### How do I apply for an ITIN?

Applying for an ITIN is done at the same time as you do your taxes, using [IRS Form W7](#). People can get assistance applying for an ITIN from Taxpayer Assistance Centers in Washington, or from Acceptance Agents or Certified Acceptance Agents, who are third party tax preparers authorized to assist with the ITIN applications.

## Taxpayer Assistance Centers

Taxpayer Assistance Centers are free IRS run tax assistance sites which require an appointment. Most locations can assist with filling out form W7, and can also certify identity documents, which helps people avoid mailing in physical identity documents to the IRS.

Locate a Taxpayer Assistance Center using the [IRS's locator](#) and search tool. Schedule an appointment by calling 844-545-5640.

## Certified Acceptance Agents (CAAs)

Acceptance Agents are authorized by the IRS to assist with filling out the ITIN application. CAAs can assist with filling out the ITIN application, and also certify identity documents – which can help applicants avoid mailing in their physical identity documents to the IRS when they apply for an ITIN.

Find an AA or CAA in Washington on the [IRS's website](#).

AAs or CAAs may charge a fee, and people should always ask about costs upfront.

[Learn more about the ITIN application and renewal process.](#)

### If my children don't have Social Security Numbers, can I apply for an ITIN for them?

Yes, if you are claiming your children on your taxes, you can apply for an ITIN for them using the same form W7. It benefits you to apply for ITINs for your children, because the Working Families Tax Credit payment amount increases with the number of qualifying children you claim on your taxes.

### Endnotes:

- 1 American Immigration Council, “New Americans in Washington,” <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/washington/#>. Data from 2017.
- 2 Liz Olson, “A Just Recovery Requires State Lawmakers Include Immigrants,” Washington State Budget & Policy Center, January 2021, [https://budgetandpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Immigrant-Inclusion-Brief\\_Final.pdf](https://budgetandpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Immigrant-Inclusion-Brief_Final.pdf)