



IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER



April 2022 | Immigration and Permanency

A Brief Guide to the ITIN:

What is an ITIN?

The ITIN (Individualized Tax Identification Number) was created in 1996 to allow individuals without a social security number (SSN), including undocumented immigrants, to pay taxes. It is not the same as a SSN and does not provide legal status or work authorization. It does allow people to pay taxes and may help individuals open a bank account. It can also be used to show residency.

Can the government track undocumented immigrants via the ITIN?

No, the IRS does not share applicants' information with immigration enforcement agencies. The IRS is not authorized to share taxpayer information to other government agencies except for under very rare circumstances.

How does one get an ITIN?

Applicants must fill out a W-7 application and submit it to the IRS along with a completed tax return. They must also include documents that verify their identity.

Where can I learn more?

The American Immigration Council has a [resource guide](#) about the ITIN and [Taxpayer Assistance Centers in Connecticut](#) can offer in-person assistance with taxes.

The theme of April's DCF Immigration Newsletter is **permanency**. DCF policy is to engage families and communities to prevent out-of-home placement, but if necessary, children and youth should go with family or kin whenever possible.

DCF licenses both documented **and** undocumented people to be foster parents. The same licensing criteria apply, including FBI background checks with fingerprints. People who do not have a social security number will need to get an [Individualized Tax Identification Number](#) (ITIN) from the Internal Revenue Service.

This month, we ask you to reflect on how international family and kin placements can advance equity in permanency. Many children may have family located outside the U.S. who could be a placement resource.

International Social Services (ISS) USA can help DCF staff look for family and kin in other countries. They provide home studies, as well as reports about community and healthcare resources. ISS USA can also look for vital records, such as birth certificates, and assist with travel arrangements when DCF is placing children in other countries. Despite this, many folks may be unfamiliar with ISS and their services. We encourage you to [review the ISS USA report](#) on equity in permanency and reach out to Jen Avenia to learn more.



Did you know...

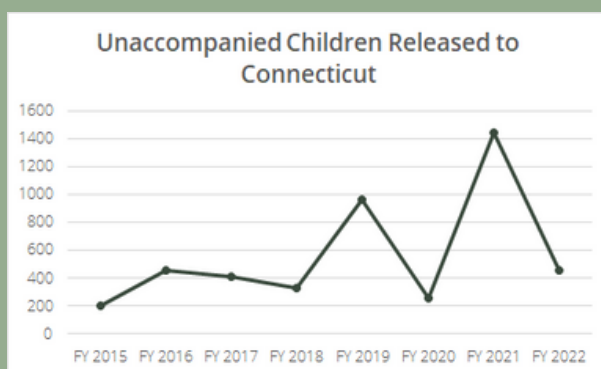
...that both documented and undocumented immigrants pay taxes at the same or slightly higher rates than US citizens?

A [fact sheet](#) by the American Immigration Council evaluates research by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) and other studies, coming to the conclusion that undocumented immigrants pay billions of dollars in sales, income, and property taxes each year. The [Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota](#) points out that some of these taxes go to programs that undocumented immigrants are not eligible to use.

...that unaccompanied migrant children and youth have been settling in Connecticut in increasing numbers over the past six years?

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) feeds, shelters, and provides medical care for unaccompanied children until they are able to release them to a setting with sponsors (usually family) while they await immigration proceedings. ORR data shows that an increasing number of unaccompanied children have come here to Connecticut.

Please note that the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 does not end until 9/30/2022, so the data for that part of the chart is incomplete.



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