

Adding Up The Cost of Excluding Undocumented Utahns from State and Federal COVID-19 Relief

Introduction

- Written by Mario Ramirez-Arrazola, mentored by Dr. Thomas Neil Maloney. University of Utah Department of Economics.
- This paper was proposed to try and get a better sense of the economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Utahn undocumented community.

Methods

- Many sources were used in order to get a quantitative perspective of the effects of COVID-19 on the undocumented community. We used tax and ITIN information from the local government, statistical analysis from the Migration Policy Institute and the Fiscal Policy Institute, and relied heavily on demographic statistics from the American Community Survey.

Utah Undocumented Taxpayers Denied Over \$154 Million in State and Federal COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

\$84 Million in stimulus payments (@\$1,200)

\$4.5 Million in stimulus payments for kids (@\$500)

\$21 Million in Utah Unemployment Benefits

\$44.9 Million in enhanced unemployment benefits (@\$600)

Source: Migration Policy Institute

Results

- Utah unauthorized workers from the span of 2010-2019 have paid \$10,920,00 to federal UI fund and \$60,346,000 to state UI fund.
- Undocumented Utahns paid \$69,770,00 in state and local taxes in 2017.
- 89% of Utah's undocumented tax filers live in just 7 counties: Salt Lake, Utah, Weber, Davis, Washington, Summit, and Cache counties.
- Sum of total state and federal COVID-19 relief aid exclusions add up to over \$154.5 million.

Conclusion

- Exclusion from relief aid is cruel under current circumstances and bad for economy. \$154.4 million could have been spent back in Utah's consumer economy, helping speed recovery from the economic downturn and ease unemployment.

