

# THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN RHODE ISLAND

## UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE \$31 MILLION IN TAXES TO THE RI ECONOMY

- **\$17.6 M** in Sales and Excise Tax
- **\$3.9 M** in Income Tax
- **\$9.7 M** in Property Tax
- Undocumented immigrants **pay an average of 7.4%** of their incomes in state and local taxes
- **DACA recipients**, who represent **3%** of RI's undocumented population, contribute **\$3.1 M** in state and local taxes. This is **10%** of the taxes contributed by all undocumented Rhode Islanders.



## THE NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED RHODE ISLANDERS HAS REMAINED THE SAME SINCE 2007



- There are **29,000** undocumented immigrants in our state, comprising **2.7%** of the population
- **3,000** of these undocumented immigrants are individuals brought to the US as children, **940** of whom retain temporary lawful status and work authorization through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (**DACA**)
- **18,000 US citizens** in Rhode Island live with at least one undocumented family member

## UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE OR FEDERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- While undocumented immigrants pay taxes, they are **not eligible** for **any public benefits** that help meet basic needs, including:
  - **Publicly funded health insurance**, including Medicaid\* and tax credits to buy coverage through HealthSource RI
  - **Income Support**, including RI Works and SSI
  - **Housing Assistance**
  - **SNAP** Food Assistance



\*Pregnant women can receive Medicaid to promote a safe birth for both mother and child

### Sources:

Lisa Gee, Matthew Gardner, Misha Hill, and Meg Wiehe, "Undocumented Immigrants' State & Local Tax Contributions" Institute on Taxation & Economy Policy, 2017.  
Misha Hill and Meg Wiehe, "State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants" Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy, 2018.