

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

**CITIES FOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT (CFE) COALITION OBJECTS TO NEW IRS BARRIERS TO FILING TAX RETURNS**

***New Regulations Require Immigrants without Social Security Numbers to Mail Original Identification, Leaving Them without Proof of Residency***

The Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Coalition today, on behalf of its members' more than 19 million residents, announced objection to the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) changes to procedures for issuing Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). The ITIN program was created in 1996 so that anyone without a Social Security number is still required to pay taxes—an important step for immigrants to establish good standing and a pathway to becoming a U.S. citizen. The IRS policy change now requires new ITIN applicants to submit their original documents, which forces immigrants without Social Security numbers to comply with a rule that causes them to be without critical documentation for months. CFE Co-chairs Jonathan Mintz, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, and José Cisneros, Treasurer of the City and County of San Francisco, submitted a formal objection to the IRS about the recent changes, which undermine cities' efforts to improve the financial security of their residents, on November 20, 2012.