



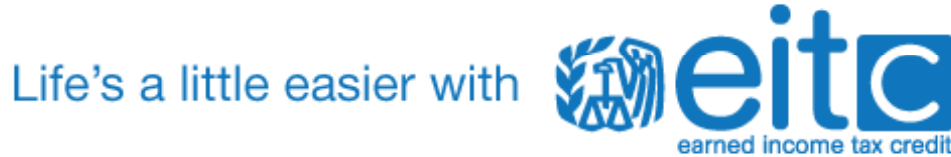
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Marlene Merrill, 909-723-1517

e-mail: mmerrill@capsbc.sbcounty.gov

website: www.capsbc.org



Friday, Jan. 28, 2011 is Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day

Jan. 26, 2011 – SAN BERNARDINO, CA: The 2010 Tax Season is starting up and the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC) wants to remind residents of San Bernardino County about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This Friday, Jan. 28th is the 5th Annual EITC Awareness Day. Every penny counts in today's economy, yet many working people are overlooking this important tax credit that could put up to \$5,600 into their pockets. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a financial boost for working people hit by hard economic times.

To find out more about EITC and the Free Tax Preparation Program VITA, the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County will be holding an EITC Workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011 at our local offices at 696 So. Tippecanoe Ave in San Bernardino from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information please call 909-723-1560.

Many people will qualify for EITC for the first time this year because their income declined, their marital status changed or they added children to their families. Bigger families with three or more children get an extra boost with a larger credit this year.

The IRS estimates four of five eligible workers get their EITC. We want to raise that number to five out of five. However, workers can get their EITC only if they file federal income tax returns - even if they are not otherwise required to file - and specifically claim the credit.

Anyone with earnings under \$48,362 from wages, self-employment or farming in 2010, should see if they qualify. They earned it. Now they just need to file and claim it.

San Bernardino County residents can get free help determining their EITC eligibility and preparing their taxes. If you earned less than \$50,000 last year, you can get your taxes done for free through the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County VITA program. For an appointment, call 909-723-1560. The Free Tax Preparation program starts Jan. 31st, and continues through April 15th, 2011.

To help accurately determine their EITC eligibility and prepare their returns, individuals should bring:

---more---

- Photo proof of identification
- Social Security cards for themselves, their spouse and dependents or Social Security number verification letters issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for all persons listed on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Copies of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit of their refunds
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Amounts paid for day care, if applicable and the day care provider's identifying number.

To electronically file their returns and get the fastest refunds, both spouses must be present to sign joint returns.

EITC has been making the lives of working people a little easier for 36 years. Today, more than ever, hard-working individuals need to be aware of programs like EITC.

CAPSBC is the designated Community Action Agency for San Bernardino County charged with providing programs and services for low-income individuals and families to help lift them out of poverty. We have been serving San Bernardino County since 1965. As one of the largest non-profit human services agency in San Bernardino County, CAPSBC, provides resources and opportunities to the low-income to improve their lives, contribute to their communities and offer a return on investment for our communities, cities and county. Programs include Weatherization, Home Energy Assistance, Family Development, Assets for Independence/ Individual Development Accounts, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Homeless Management Information Systems and the CAPSBC Food Bank. Please call 909-723-1500 or e-mail info@capsbc.org or visit our website www.capsbc.org for more information.