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Thousands Could Overlook Valuable Tax Credit



If you make less than \$49,000, find out about the Earned Income Tax Credit. Some working people could get up to \$5,700 back from the IRS when they file their taxes and claim the credit. See if you qualify at irs.gov/eitc.



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www.irs.gov/eitc EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

San Bernardino, CA – Jan 4, 2012 –Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC) is issuing an alert to county residents about the thousands of workers who overlook the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a special federal tax credit. Eligible residents who don't take advantage of EITC could miss out on up to \$5,751 extra in their federal income tax refunds. Last year, on average, the credit boosted refunds for eligible California workers by \$2,229.

"This money can make a real difference to workers struggling in this tough economy" said Patricia L. Nickols, CEO of CAPSBC. Anyone earning \$49,078 or less from wages, self-employment or farming in 2011 should see if they qualify. Eligible workers must file federal income tax returns-even if they are not required to file-and specifically must claim the credit to get it. CAPSBC provides free income tax preparation services to San Bernardino County residents with an annual income of \$50,000 or less. Workers can get free help determining their EITC eligibility, claiming the credit, and preparing their taxes by calling CAPSBC at (909) 723-1561.

The IRS estimates that only four out of five eligible workers currently claim their EITC. Many people will qualify for the first time this year due to economic changes in their income or changes in their marital or parental status.

"We want to raise that to five out of five," Nickols said. "They earned it. Now they need to file, claim it and get it."

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

- Photo proof of identification
- Social Security cards for themselves, their spouse and all 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 their prior year 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.

Both spouses must be present to sign joint returns.

"EITC is a financial boost for working people and it allows more funds to flow within our community. It's money that can make lives a little easier," Nickols said.

CAPSBC is a non-profit 501(c)3. As one of the largest non-profit human services agencies in San Bernardino County, CAPSBC has provided resources and opportunities to low-income individuals and families to become stable and self-reliant for over 40 years. CAPSBC programs include Energy, Education and Environmental Services, Family Development, Individual Development Accounts, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Homeless Management Information Systems and the CAPSBC Food Bank. For more information about CAPSBC programs and services, call 909-723-1500 or visit us on the web at www.capsbc.org