

DC EITC Campaign

SAMPLE NEWSETTER ARTICLES TO PROMOTE THE EITC

These pieces can be borrowed as is, or can be modified to suit your needs.
If you need any help, call the Washington Council of Agencies, at 202-457-0540
or Ed Lazere, DC Fiscal Policy Institute, at 202-408-1080

LONG NEWSLETTER VERSION

Working Families Can Boost Their Paychecks By Claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit

People who worked in 2001 and had a low or moderate income may be eligible for substantial tax benefits when they file tax returns this year. Families with two or more children who worked and earned less than \$32,000 can get up to \$5,000 from the **Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC**. Families with one child can get up to \$3,000, while workers with no children living who earned less than \$10,700 can get up to \$450.

The EITC is a tax benefit specifically for people who work. People who qualify will pay less in taxes or even get a check back from the IRS. Workers can get the EITC even if they don't owe any income taxes.

There are currently two EITCs, one provided by the federal government, and another provided by the District of Columbia government. To get the federal EITC, families with children must file a federal tax return (Form 1040 or 1040A) and attach a special form called Schedule EIC. To get the DC EITC, families must file a DC income tax form and attach a copy of their federal tax return.

In addition to the EITC, some working families with children will benefit from the **Child Tax Credit**. This credit can be claimed only on the federal tax return.

Lots of free tax preparation is available to help workers fill out their tax returns. Information on the EITC and where to get free tax assistance is available from *Answers, Please!* at 202-463-6211 or the DC income tax assistance line at 202-727-4TAX (4829).

If you want to spread the word about the EITC, outreach fliers can be obtained from the Washington Council of Agencies. Call 202-457-0540.

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