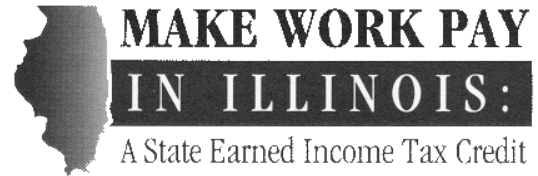


**Approve SB1562 (Collins-Harmon-Pankau-Delgado-Millner)
And HB2319 (W.Davis-Currie-Cross-Black-Bradley)**

*Help Struggling Families:
Grow the Illinois EITC*



What is the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit? It's the only tax benefit that expressly encourages and rewards work – a credit that last year kept \$87 million in the pockets of nearly 850,000 low-income, working families statewide. Our state credit is based on the much bigger, federal EITC. Both the federal and state credits have strong bipartisan support.

Who benefits and how? To claim the EITC, taxpayers must be both low-income and working. Households with earnings of less than \$41,646 can qualify; the exact size of their credit depends on their specific income level and family size. However, because the Illinois EITC is set at only 5 percent of the federal credit, the maximum amount of the Illinois credit is only \$241 per family – the nation's second-smallest state EITC. Credits range as high as \$965 in Virginia and \$1,447 in New York.

Why the EITC?

- **It's a work incentive**, available only to households in which one or more person is employed, and it helps lift many of our lowest-paid workers out of poverty. This is particularly important as low-income workers' wages slip.
- **It eases taxes**, helping offset low-income families' unfairly large share of state and local taxes. As a percentage of their earnings, Illinois' poorest families spend up to twice as much on these taxes as the wealthiest families do.
- **It provides true economic stimulus** to local communities. Low-income, working families are likely to spend the money they save through the EITC, and that's good for boosting a sluggish economy.



How can it be improved? The Illinois EITC should be doubled gradually, to provide families and communities with more of the help they need. **HB2319 and SB1562 would increase the credit to:**

- **7.5 percent of the federal credit in 2009**, for a maximum value of about \$360 per qualifying family.
- **10 percent of the federal EITC in 2010**, for a maximum state EITC of about \$500 per family.

For more information, please contact: Sean Noble (312-516-5566, snoble@voices4kids.org) or Kelley Talbot (312-516-5572, ktalbot@voices4kids.org) at Voices for Illinois Children. See reverse for a list of Make Work Pay campaign supporters.

*“The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job-creation measure to come out of Congress.”
– President Reagan, describing the federal Earned Income Tax Credit in 1986*



MAKE WORK PAY IN ILLINOIS:

A State Earned Income Tax Credit

Make Work Pay campaign members include these 40 organizations, who support efforts to “make work pay” and taxes fairer for working families via EITC improvements:

Voices for Illinois Children	Illinois Coalition for Community Services
Center for Economic Progress	Illinois Family Partnership Network
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law	Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability	Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Protestants for the Common Good	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Action Now	Latino Coalition for Prevention
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	League of Women Voters of Illinois
Catholic Conference of Illinois	Lutheran Advocacy – Illinois
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
Chicago Foundation for Women	Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues	Metropolitan Family Services
Children’s Home and Aid Society of Illinois	Ounce of Prevention Fund
Citizen Action / Illinois	Progressive Public Affairs
Greater Chicago Food Depository	Project Irene
H&R Block	SEIU Illinois Council
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights	SEIU Healthcare Illinois
Housing Action Illinois	Uhlich Children’s Advantage Network
Illinois AFL-CIO	United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 881
Illinois Action for Children	Women Employed
Illinois African-American Coalition For Prevention	YWCA Metropolitan Chicago