



## Campaign for Working Families

Tax Benefits Outreach

# EITC Refund

YOU EARNED IT! CLAIM IT!

## WHAT IS EITC?

Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable federal tax credit for people who worked all or part of the time during the year but who did not earn a lot of money including those who paid little or no income tax. With EITC, you could get a refund of some or all of the money paid in taxes during the year and in certain cases, even more than what you paid because **YOU EARNED IT!**

**WHO CAN GET AN EITC REFUND?** Eligible persons who worked all or part of the time during the year and are raising one or more children and persons age 25 to 64 who are NOT raising children. This includes Immigrants, their spouses and children who have a valid Social Security number that allows them to work legally in the United States. Immigrants that only have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) CANNOT get EITC but they can file an Income Tax Return and may be able to get Child Tax Credit and other tax benefits.

## HOW MUCH CAN A PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR AN EITC REFUND GET?

| Maximum Amount of Credit (Refund) | Number of Dependent children | Maximum Annual Income (Single) | Maximum Annual Income (Married) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$399                             | 0                            | \$11,750                       | \$13,750                        |
| \$2,662                           | 1                            | \$31,030                       | \$33,030                        |
| \$4,400                           | 2 or more                    | \$35,263                       | \$37,263                        |

**WHICH CHILDREN QUALIFY TO BE CLAIMED FOR EITC?** All children who are age 18 or under; all who are age 23 or under who are full-time students; children of all ages who are totally and permanently disabled. All children must live with the worker in the U.S. for more than half a year. Children who qualify for EITC include:

- Sons, daughters, stepchildren, grandchildren and adopted children
- Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters and their descendents such as nieces, nephews if the workers care for them as if they were their own.
- Foster children if placed with the worker's family by an authorized government or private agency.

**HOW CAN YOU CLAIM AN EITC REFUND?** You must file an Income Tax Return using IRS Forms 1040EZ, 1040 or 1040A and include *Schedule EIC*. Married workers must file on the same form. Workers who are raising children can file any form, including 1040EZ. They must write "EIC" or the amount of the credit on the Earned Income Credit line of the form.

**WHERE CAN YOU GET FREE INCOME TAX SERVICE AND WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?** Free e-file Income Tax Service is available at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) centers. You must bring original Social Security card (for self and dependents), photo ID, IRS Forms W-2 and 1099. Helpful - previous year's tax return, receipts for childcare and any other pertinent documents.

**CALL 2-1-1** for **VITA** and **TCE**  
centers in Texas / Rio Grande Valley

Campaign for Working Families  
Financial Literacy Task Force  
EITC/VITA Project  
956-782-4000 or 1-866-581-5437



Children's Defense Fund