

United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area



For Immediate Release

Contact: Odessa Adams-Payne, 504-827-6822

Valuable Tax Credit Puts Money in the Pockets of Qualifying Workers

- Who:** United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, the Louisiana Association of United Ways, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Louisiana Department of Social Services, and Louisiana 2-1-1 Providers in collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- What:** **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day**, a nationwide effort to increase public awareness about EITC and eligibility for tax refunds, plus free tax preparation sites.
- Where:** Call **2-1-1** or 1-888-LA-HELP-U and ask for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site nearest you.
- When:** **Friday, January 30, 2009**
- Why:** People who work but don't earn a lot of money may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as free help preparing their tax return. EITC is a refundable income tax credit that can put hundreds or thousands of dollars into the pockets of individuals and families who qualify. However, millions of Americans do not receive this benefit each year simply because they failed to fill out the proper forms. These community organizations join the IRS in urging Louisianians to learn whether they qualify for this vital tax benefit.

The IRS estimates that 20 to 25 percent of eligible taxpayers fail to claim the credit which **could put as much as \$4,824 into the pockets of a family with two children, or send as much as \$2,917 to a family with one child, or up to \$438 for a worker with no children.** The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefiting lower earning workers.

The EITC is a valuable but complex tax break. Free help is available to determine eligibility and file to claim the credit at volunteer tax assistance sites or, for those who cannot visit a site during days/hours of operation, at a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center. The IRS is working to make it easier for taxpayers to understand if they are eligible for the EITC. Tools include the EITC Assistant, an online tool found on the official IRS website at www.irs.gov, which offers simple steps on determining if you qualify for the credit. Taxpayers can also call 1-800-829-1040 to inquire about their EITC eligibility and how to claim the benefit.

Single/Head of Household	Max. Income	Max. Credit
No children	\$12,880	\$438
One child	\$33,995	\$2,917
Two or more children	\$38,646	\$4,824
Married Filing Jointly	Max. Income	Max. Credit
No children	\$15,880	\$438
One child	\$36,995	\$2,917
Two or more children	\$41,646	\$4,824

The following are organizations in the area participating in EITC Awareness Day on January 30:

Tulane University, Loyola University New Orleans, Dillard University, St. Roch Community Church, Catholic Charities, Hispanic Apostolate, Nolaviet, Total Community Action (TCA), Regions Bank, Hope Community Credit Union, ASI Federal Credit Union, and AARP

