

Below are a series of public service announcements that you can use to place on your pay stubs, on-hold messages or answering machine messages. We have also provided a generic newsletter article below.

1. Worked for wages? If you earned less than \$48,000 last year, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Go to your local free tax preparation site to find out. To find your local free tax preparation site, call the Ohio Benefit Bank at 1-800-648-1176.

2. If you earned less than \$48,000 last year, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Save money and time by going to a local free tax preparation site. Call the Ohio Benefit Bank at 1-800-648-1176 today or go to: www.ohio.gov/EITC

3. You Earned It, Just Ask for It - The Earned Income Tax Credit. Save money and time by going to a local free tax preparation site. To find one near you, call the Ohio Benefit Bank at 1-800-648-1176. That's 1-800-648-1176.

[EITC Generic Newsletter Article 2010]

You Earned It, Just Ask for It!

During these tough economic times, every penny counts, and Ohio statewide officials are doing everything they can to help inform Ohioans about easy ways for them to keep more of their hard-earned money.

As Co-Chair of the Ohio Commission on the Earned Income Tax Credit, Treasurer Kevin L. Boyce is doing just that. Along with Co-Chairs Attorney General Richard Cordray and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, the Treasurer is working to ensure that every Ohioan who qualifies for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) receives it.

The EITC allows taxpayers earning lower to moderate wages to receive a larger tax refund. Those who qualify for the program could be eligible to receive a federal tax credit of up to \$5,657.

Approximately 800,000 Ohio families qualify for the federal program but as many as *twenty percent* of these families don't take advantage of the credit, either because they don't know about it or don't know how to access it.

People who want to know if they are eligible for the EITC are urged to call the Ohio Benefit Bank at (800) 648-1176. In many parts of the state, taxpayers can also dial 2-1-1 to speak with a representative who can help them determine their eligibility and find free tax preparation services.

According to a 2006 Brookings Institution study, the EITC lifts more children above the poverty line than any other government program. In 2005, more than 22 million U.S. households applied for the EITC and received an average of \$1,864. As a result, an estimated 5 million people, including 2.6 million children, were lifted above the poverty line.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program also uses volunteers to prepare tax returns, free of charge, for taxpayers with low to moderate income (generally \$39,000 and below). To volunteer or find a VITA site near you, call the IRS at (800) 906-9887. Tax payers should also note that due to electronic filing, direct deposit and free tax assistance services, paying for faster returns or to obtain refund anticipation loans (RAL) is often unnecessary and should be avoided. Through use of direct deposit banking, returns can generally be in accounts within ten days.

For more information on the EITC, please visit www.Ohio.gov/EITC. There you will find useful tips and resources, interactive tools, and opportunities to help other Ohio families claim the tax credit.