

EITC Awareness Day Fact Sheet

EITC-eligible Taxpayers Can Get Free Help Preparing Their Returns

Taxpayers who qualify for EITC have several options for free help preparing their returns and getting the credit they deserve, including:

- Any of the more than 400 IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers nationwide;
- More than 12,000 free income tax preparation sites nationwide; and
- Free File through IRS.gov. for internet-enabled do-it-yourselfers.

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers

Taxpayers who want to know if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can get answers, information, and publications about the credit at their local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center and, beginning February 1, 2008, get help preparing and e-filing their federal income tax returns to claim the credit. Help is available regardless of whether their earned income came from a job or self-employment.

Interpreters are available to help non-English-speaking taxpayers.

The local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center is located at: _____ (Street/City) _____.
The office is open for assistance _____ (Days/Hours) _____.

Free Return Preparation Sites

IRS-trained and tested volunteers are ready to help lower-income and older taxpayers prepare their returns and claim the EITC they deserve. IRS volunteers believe that preparing an accurate return is the most important aspect of providing quality service to taxpayers and have put fundamental steps in place to ensure quality.

The locations and days/hours of help at local free tax preparation sites are: _____

Free File

By typing in www.irs.gov, taxpayers can choose from numerous tax preparation software programs, some in Spanish. Taxpayers can use the software and file their returns electronically all for free if they make less than \$54,000. Approximately 70 percent of the nation's taxpayers are eligible for Free File.

Tax Professionals

Some tax professionals offer pro bono help for lower income taxpayers. Whether using a free or fee-for-service tax preparer, taxpayers should select their preparer with care. Beware of preparers who promise large refunds before reviewing your records. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.