

EITC – Extension Agents



IRS Seeks Help from Extension Agents to Spread the Word on EITC

The IRS needs your help.

One of the largest benefit programs for working families is also one of the most overlooked tax credits. It's called the Earned Income Tax Credit and, as the name implies, it's for people who work for a living but don't make a lot of money.

Rural residents, self-employed people such as farmers, childless workers and grandparents raising grandchildren are among those who may be eligible but fail to claim EITC.

It's easy to see how EITC can make life a little easier in these hard times. A married couple with two children and an income ranging from \$12,060 to \$18,740 could be eligible for the maximum tax credit of \$4,824. Taxpayers making as much as \$41,646 qualify for EITC and can get tax returns prepared for no charge at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site in their local community. To locate a site, taxpayers can call the toll free number 1-800-829-1040 and ask for the VITA site in their community.

How can you help? By spreading the word, leaving a brochure with a client or making a mention in a news column. If you're looking for a timely angle, consider this: Each year, the IRS sponsors EITC Awareness Day to highlight EITC in the media. For 2009, the date is January 30. Scores of news conferences will be held nationwide.

For more information on how you can help, email partner@irs.gov.