

NEWS RELEASE

Communications & Legislative Services ■ Phone: 402-471-9108 ■ Fax: 402-471-3996 ■ www.dhhs.ne.gov

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CONTACT

Russ Reno, Communications and Legislative Services, (402) 471-8287

Don't Overlook the Earned Income Tax Credit

Lincoln – Low- to middle-income taxpayers are encouraged to file for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which could result in a reduced federal tax, no tax payment or even receiving a tax refund beyond the amount of tax withheld, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

EITC is a refundable tax credit for eligible workers with low to middle incomes, said Thomas Pristow, director of the Division of Children and Family Services in DHHS.

Earned income tax credit is based on income and filing status, he said. For example, childless singles making less than \$13,980 a year, or married couples with two children making less than \$47,162 annually from wages, self-employment or farming in 2012 could qualify. To electronically file returns and get the fastest refunds, both spouses must be present to sign joint returns.

"People deserve to get the tax credits they're eligible to receive through the EITC program," Pristow said. "EITC is a financial boost for working people especially in these challenging economic times. You're eligible for it. Now file, claim it and get it."

Pristow urged that before filing taxes, taxpayers should determine if they're eligible even if they've qualified in the past. He said they can move into and out of eligibility depending on changes in their earnings, and parental or marital status.

To help Nebraskans take advantage of the EITC program, DHHS works with community organizations to provide free tax preparation assistance by IRS-certified volunteers to low income individuals and families. To locate assistance sites, or to have eligibility questions answered, call 2-1-1 or 1-800-829-1040.

Federal tax credits include:

- Earned Income Tax Credit – up to \$5,891.
- Child Tax Credit – up to \$1,000 per child.

- Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits – up to \$2,100.

For more information, visit: www.canhelp.org/access-services.

Statewide EITC Coalition members include: DHHS; the American Association of Retired Persons' Tax-Aide program; Community Action of Nebraska; EITC Coalition (Omaha); EITC Coalition (Lincoln); Human Services Federation; the Internal Revenue Service; the Nebraska Department of Revenue; the Federal Reserve Bank - Omaha Branch; the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Student Learning; the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation; and the United Way of the Midlands.

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