



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director  
TOM COCHRAN

To: The Mayor

From: Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

Date: December 28, 2011

Re: Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Toolkits

Over the past several years The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been involved in a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to call attention to what mayors can do to help working families achieve economic success. To assist mayors in doing this, the Conference is working with Casey to promote the development of local campaigns to encourage working families to take advantage of federal tax credits, especially the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Enclosed please find the 2012 Earned Income Credit and Child Care Tax Outreach Toolkit compiled by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, which includes specific guidelines to help you establish EITC programs in your city. Additional information and resources on EITC can also be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service website ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).

Every year the EITC lifts more families out of poverty than any other program the federal government offers. However, it still remains one of the most underutilized programs. The EITC is a refundable tax credit available to working families and individuals earning low-to-moderate incomes. In 2011, over 27 million eligible families and individuals claimed Earned Income Tax Credits worth \$59.7 billion. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a temporary increase in the EITC for taxpayers with three or more qualifying children and increased the beginning point of the phase-out range for the credit for all married couples filing a joint return for 2009 and 2010. The Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended these changes to 2011 and 2012. In August 2010, President Obama signed legislation that repealed the Advanced Earned Income Tax Credit, which will not allow recipients to claim Advanced EITC after December 31, 2010. The IRS announced that starting January 2, 2011 it will no longer provide tax preparers and associated financial institutions the "debt indicator," which is used to facilitate refund anticipation loans (RALs). With the economy struggling to recover from the recession and unemployment almost at 10 percent, your programs and outreach are now more important than ever.

We hope that you will join in this worthwhile campaign to help aid working families within your city. If you have any questions regarding the EITC campaign or the tool kit please contact Kathleen Wiggins, Assistant Executive Director, at (202)293-7330 or [kwiggins@usmayors.org](mailto:kwiggins@usmayors.org).