



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

(617) 348 - 6241

Fax: (617) 482 - 4859

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Susan Kooperstein
617-348-6241
617-875-3619 (cell)
Randy Miller
617-348-6244

ABCD Offers Free Tax Help That Puts Money in the Pockets of Struggling Working Families and Individuals

Last Year Almost 4,000 Families Received a Total of \$5.5 Million in Tax Returns, Credits, Through ABCD's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program

Free ABCD Tax Assistance Sites Now Open

ABCD Credit Counseling and Money Management Workshops at Several Sites

YOU may be eligible for up to \$5,396 from the federal and state governments!

Robert M. Coard, President/CEO at Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), Boston's antipoverty agency, announced today that free tax assistance programs are now open at ABCD sites – both downtown and in Boston's neighborhoods – to help low and moderate income working families and individuals in Boston file for tax credits or cash refunds through the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) programs.

“In the current harsh economic climate, many working people who are struggling to make ends meet have the opportunity to increase their income by as much as \$5,396 by filing for an Earned Income Tax Credit during current tax season,” said Coard. “With EITC, depending on your income and the number of children you support, you may be able to obtain significant extra money from both your federal and state income tax returns.” ABCD has provided free tax assistance for many years.

The EITC is a refundable federal and state income tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families. The credit reduces the amount of taxes owed and puts more money in the pockets of hard-working people. Last year ABCD served more than 3,700 taxpayers and refunded \$5.8 million.

Income and family size determine the amount of the EITC. For example, if you are a working family (single or married) and you earned less than \$39,783 in 2007 and lived with two or more “qualifying” children, you can receive up to \$5,396 in federal and state credits.

If you are a working family with one “qualifying” child and earned less than \$35,241 in 2007, you may receive up to \$3,280. If you are single or a married working couple with no children and earned less than \$14,590 in 2007, you can receive a credit of up to \$492.

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If you do your own taxes or work with paid tax preparers, remember that you may be eligible for EITC. Every year thousands of dollars in EITC payments for Boston-area residents go unclaimed.

This year ABCD's EITC program includes Credit Counseling and Money Management workshops, provided onsite at several of ABCD's neighborhood-based tax preparation sites and downtown locations.

ABCD Asset Development Program: Creating permanent pathways out of poverty

ABCD's EITC initiative is part of the agency's comprehensive Asset Development Program which helps low-income households permanently escape poverty by building assets through home ownership, savings, higher education and entrepreneurship. It includes an Individual Development Account (IDA) program that creates matched savings accounts to help low-income workers save for and purchase a home, pursue post-secondary education, or launch a business.

Vernette Allen, ABCD Asset Development Director, pointed out that low-income, working families can reap huge benefits from ABCD's IDA and EITC programs. "One woman applied for the IDA program and we looked at her finances and saw she was eligible for EITC. We were able to help her file retroactively and she received more than \$8,000 in tax benefits," said Allen. "That payment made all the difference for her family! We want to reach out to the thousands of struggling families who are eligible for these important tax benefits and help them to use our IDA and EITC programs to begin to move permanently out of poverty."

The EITC does not affect eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps or low-income housing.

ABCD is a part of Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Boston EITC Coalition, created to generate greater awareness of the EITC and encourage more eligible residents to claim the valuable credit and put cash in their pockets. ABCD currently provides free tax help and electronic filing at half of the city's free tax sites throughout Boston.

ABCD's free VITA tax preparation sites for low-income workers:

Call ahead for tax preparation hours and appointments and for information on Credit Counseling and Money Management workshops.

All sites are wheelchair accessible except Allston Brighton Resource Center, ACORN in Dorchester, Metropolitan Baptist Church, South Boston Resource Center, and South End SNAP.

Go to www.bostonabcd.org/centers to find more information on the sites listed below.

- Allston/Brighton APAC, 143 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-1485
- Citywide Boston Hispanic Center, 178 Tremont St., Downtown 617-348-6567
- Dorchester NSC, 110 Claybourne St., Dorchester 617-288-2700 x200
- East Boston APAC, 21 Meridian St., East Boston 617-567-8857
- Elm Hill FSC, 22 Elm Hill Ave., Roxbury 617-442-5900 x200
- Jamaica Plain APAC, 753 Centre St., Jamaica Plain 617-522-4250 x22
- LearningWorks, 19 Temple Place, Downtown 617-348-6000 x7453
- Mattapan FSC, 535 River St., Mattapan 617-298-2045

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- North End/West End NSC, One Michelangelo Place, 617-523-8125 X202
- Parker Hill/Fenway NSC, 714 Parker St., Roxbury 617-445-6000 x228
- South Boston Action Center, 424 West Broadway, South Boston 617-269-5160
- South End Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP), 554 Columbus Ave. 617-267-7400 x221
- Southside Head Start, 19 Corinth St., Roslindale 617-348-6239

More Boston VITA sites:

- Allston/Brighton Resource Center, 367 Western Ave., Brighton 617-562-5734
- ACORN, 196 Adams St., Dorchester 617-436-7100
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 38 Ash St., Chinatown 617-635-5129 x1041
- Codman Square Tech Center, 450 Washington St., Dorchester 617-822-8171
- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, 1353 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester 617-822-8171
- HOPE, 165 Brookside Ave., Jamaica Plain 617-524-8888 x0
- JVS Center for Careers & Lifelong Learning, 29 Winter Street, Downtown 617-399-3235
- Metropolitan Baptist Church, 393 Norfolk Street, Dorchester 617-436-0479
- Roxbury Resource Center, 2201 Washington St., Roxbury 617-989-9150
- 1199 SEIU, 21 Fellows St., Roxbury 877-409-1199
- South Boston Resource Center, 489 Broadway, South Boston 617-635-0771
- VA Boston Healthcare Systems, 105 S. Huntington Ave., 3rd Fl. 857-364-5071

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston and Greater Boston residents through its central offices and a decentralized neighborhood network of Area Planning Action Councils (APACs) and Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs). ABCD programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Child Care Services; Head Start; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University Alternative High School; William J. Ostiguy High for youngsters with drug and/or alcohol abuse issues; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; a Holiday Toy Drive; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; an Independent Living Program serving people with disabilities; an Asset Development Program; and management of four payroll deduction fundraising campaigns reaching out to more than 200,000 city, state, federal and private sector employees and benefiting approximately 3,000 non-profit organizations; advocacy and consumer services.

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