



# 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

**FOR RELEASE ON FEB. 1, 2007**

January 26, 2007

**CONTACT:** Susan Kooperstein

(617) 348-6241

Megan Britt

(617) 348-6236

## **ABCD Offers Free Tax Help That Puts Money in the Pockets of Low-Income Working Families and Individuals**

*ABCD Tax Assistance Sites Now Open to Help Working People  
Claim Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to \$5,316*

**YOU** may be eligible for up to \$5,316 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 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.

“Many working people who are struggling to make ends meet could be increasing their income by as much as \$5,316 by filing for an Earned Income Tax Credit during the upcoming 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 3,500 taxpayers and refunded \$5.5 million, including \$2 million in Earned Income Credits.

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 \$38,348 in 2006 and lived with two or more “qualifying” children, you can receive up to \$5,316 in federal and state credits.

If you are a working family with one “qualifying” child and earned less than \$34,001 in 2006 you may receive up to \$3,159. If you are single or a married working couple with no children and earned less than \$14,120 in 2006, you can receive a credit of up to \$473.

Coard noted that the filing process is not difficult and pointed out that through the IRS's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, ABCD is making volunteers available to assist eligible

Boston residents in filling out the necessary forms. You can figure the credit on your own using a special worksheet included as part of the EITC instructions in the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ tax packages, or you can get free tax assistance from any of the locations listed below. If you work with paid tax preparers, be sure to remind them that you may be eligible for EITC!

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:**

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

- Citywide 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
- Parker Hill/Fenway NSC, 714 Parker St., Roxbury 617-445-6000 x228
- South Boston Action Center, 424 West Broadway, South Boston 617-269-5160 x0
- South End Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP), 554 Columbus Ave. South End 617-267-7400 x221
- Southside Head Start, 19 Corinth St., Roslindale 617-348-6239

**More Boston VITA sites:**

- 1199 SEIU, 21 Fellows St., Roxbury 877-409-1199
- 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
- South Boston Resource Center, 489 Broadway, South Boston 617-635-0771
- VA Boston Healthcare Systems, 105 S. Huntington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; Welfare-to-Work Programs; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University Alternative High School; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; a new Independent Living Program serving people with disabilities; advocacy and consumer services.