



United Way of  
Greater Kansas City

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## KC CASH and United Way Announce the Opening of 16 Free Tax Assistance Sites for Low and Middle Income Kansas City Area Taxpayers

(Greater Kansas City)---If this is the end of January, it means tax time is near. While that might lead to a sense of panic for some people, it can actually be a good thing for many low-to-moderate-income wage earners, struggling to make ends meet. They could qualify to receive thousands of dollars in tax refunds, thanks to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The KC CASH Coalition and United Way want to help as many taxpayers as possible who qualify for EITC refunds, to get them this year. They are sponsoring 16 free tax assistance sites around the Kansas City metro area designed to help people with household incomes of \$49,000 or less prepare and file their taxes for free.

The KC CASH/United Way tax assistance sites are opening this week to help hardworking families claim the tax refunds they earned and deserve. The tax assistance sites will be staffed by IRS-certified tax preparation volunteers. They will be located at a dozen local nonprofit agencies, churches, community colleges and UMKC. The tax assistance site at the Full Employment Council, 1720 Paseo Blvd., Kansas City, MO will be a “Super Site” open six days a week. The easiest way for taxpayers to find a convenient location near them is by visiting [www.unitedwaygkc.org/tax](http://www.unitedwaygkc.org/tax) or by dialing 2-1-1 or (816) 474-5112. United Way 2-1-1 call specialists are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and have a listing of tax assistance site locations, along with their hours of operation.

The IRS estimates that four out of five taxpayers who were eligible to claim the tax credit claimed it last year, but that means 20% of those who qualified for EITC tax refunds let Uncle Sam keep the money which was rightfully theirs. This year, the EITC can put up to \$5,666 in the pockets of low-income families with three or more qualifying children.

Jason Wood, president of KC CASH Coalition, says, “EITC is a financial boost for working people hit by tough economic times. This money can make life a little easier for people who lost their jobs during the year or are only working part-time, especially those who have children. But the only way they can claim the tax credit is by filing a federal income tax return, even if they aren’t legally required to do so because their income was too low. Taking the time to file a return and claim EITC can literally put thousands of extra dollars into their pockets this year.”

EITC is a tax credit created by Congress in 1975 to ease the burden of Social Security taxes on low-income working men and women, especially those with children. EITC is for people who work, but don’t earn a lot of money. In general, the lower a family’s household income, the larger their tax credit refund will be.

How much can low-to-moderate-income taxpayers get back? A family with three or more qualifying children could get up to a \$5,666 tax credit; a family with two qualifying children could get up to \$5,036 back; up to \$3,050 for a family with one qualifying child; and a family with no qualifying children may be eligible for a \$457 EITC tax refund.

In order to qualify for at least some EITC, a taxpayer's adjusted gross income cannot exceed:

- \$43,352 (\$48,362 if married filing jointly) with three or more children
- \$40,363 (\$45,373 if married filing jointly) with two children
- \$35,535 (\$40,545 if married filing jointly) with one child
- \$13,460 (\$18,470 if married filing jointly) with no children

Households with investment income of more than \$3,100 aren't eligible to claim EITC.

Tax preparation volunteers at the free tax assistance sites will help people determine their eligibility for EITC while helping them prepare and file their tax returns. Taxpayers should bring the following items with them:

- Photo identification
- Valid Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- Birth dates for all people listed on the tax return
- Current year's tax package if received
- Wage and earnings statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit of refunds
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Amounts paid to day care provider and the provider's identifying number

To electronically file your taxes and get the fastest refunds, both spouses must be present to sign a joint tax return.

In addition to the 16 free tax assistance sites, families with a household income of \$57,000 or less can go to [www.myfreetaxes.com/kc](http://www.myfreetaxes.com/kc) and file their taxes online for free. KC CASH and United Way will also be using this website in coordinating approximately two dozen other temporary tax preparation sites throughout the community, where people will be given access to computers and tax preparation software so they can do their own taxes with the help of a "tax coach." The roving sites are funded by a grant from Wal-Mart and will place a special emphasis on helping people with disabilities and those who are filing their income taxes on their own for the first time in their life.

Last year, KC CASH volunteers helped 5,443 people prepare and file their taxes at 17 taxpayer assistance sites in the metro area, resulting in \$2.1 million claimed in EITC credits and more than \$6.2 million in federal tax refunds.

The KC CASH Coalition, a group made up of Kansas City area businesses, educational institutions, government entities, financial institutions and nonprofit agencies, is dedicated to helping families create savings and build their financial stability.

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