



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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\$25 MILLION OF TAX DOLLARS UNCLAIMED IN COUNTY EVERY YEAR ***County Intensifies Campaign to Help Families Reclaim Hard-Earned Money***

Chairman Greg Cox and Supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Bill Horn, together with community service providers and working families, today launched the 2008 countywide campaign to help more San Diego County families and individuals take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The supervisors also encouraged people to take advantage of the tax assistance being offered throughout San Diego County to help them put more money in their pockets.

“This effort is reducing poverty and putting money back in the hands of hard working families and individuals,” said First District Supervisor Cox at a news conference outside the County Administration Center. “It’s great to see so many hard-working San Diegans recoup the money they deserve.”

Established in 1975, the EITC is the federal government’s largest cash assistance program designed to lift low-income families and individuals out of poverty by helping them keep more of their hard-earned wages.

However, approximately \$20-\$25 million of EITC dollars is left unclaimed in San Diego County every year. The figure jumps to more than \$1 billion statewide.

During the 2003 tax season, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors launched a pilot program that provided free tax preparation assistance to low-income workers. The program was expanded countywide the following year.

Since the initiative began, more than 35,000 returns have been filed and more than \$16 million EITC dollars have been returned to the regional economy.

“Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, we are putting more money in the hands of working families, helping to reduce poverty and stimulate the local economy,” said Third District Supervisor Slater-Price. “We’re making every effort to help families

(more)



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Earned Income Tax Credit—Continued...

claim the money they've earned."

This year, about a dozen agencies and organizations—including United Way, the IRS, and the AARP—and more than 400 volunteers are providing free tax assistance at nearly 90 sites throughout San Diego County.

During the 2008 tax season, more than 75,000 bilingual postcards and 800 English and Spanish posters are being distributed countywide encouraging people to file a tax return and claim the EITC.

"Thousands of low-income families and individuals qualify, but on many occasions they do not know and do not claim their earned income tax credit," said Fifth District Supervisor Horn. "They worked hard for this money. They earned it, and they certainly can use it and save it to pay for housing, education, or transportation."

Individuals and families who worked in 2007 and earned less than \$12,000 and \$39,000 respectively could recover as much as \$4,500. However, to qualify for the EITC, they must file a tax return.

For more information about the EITC Campaign or to set up an appointment to file a tax return, call:

Central or East Region:	(619) 283-3624
North Central Region:	(858) 974-3603
North Coastal Region:	(760) 757-0118 ext. 305
North Inland Region:	(760) 489-6380
South Region:	(619) 420-3620 or (619) 472-2900
Internal Revenue Service:	(800) 829-1040

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