



**DEADLINE TO CLAIM THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT
APPROACHING, NYC HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
REMINDS LOW TO MODERATE LOW INCOME WORKING NEW
YORKERS**

*New Yorkers Have More Options Than Ever to File Their Taxes For Free or Low Cost at
nyc.gov/taxprep*

March 24, 2011— Today, Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar reminded working New Yorkers of the upcoming deadline to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Tax season ends on April 18.

The EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working people. When EITC payments are more than what applicants owe in taxes, they will receive a tax refund if they qualify for the credit and claim it on their tax return. Last year, more than 25 million people nationwide received nearly \$58 billion in EITC. In New York State alone, filers received over \$2 billion in EITC. Still, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) estimates that 20 to 25 percent of qualifying workers miss out on thousands of dollars every year because they fail to claim their EITC. The only way New Yorkers can claim their EITC is by filing a tax return.

Every year HRA is involved in outreach efforts to promote the EITC and other tax credits in collaboration with the City's Department of Consumer Affairs and other agencies. These activities are part of the Mayor's Annual Tax Credit Campaign which not only increases awareness about tax credits but also offers qualifying New Yorkers free and low cost options for filing their taxes. For more information visit nyc.gov/taxprep or call 311.

"In its role of providing temporary help to New Yorkers and assisting them in reaching self-sufficiency, HRA remains fully committed to promoting work support programs like EITC among the population it serves, many of whom are unaware they are entitled to this refund," said Commissioner Doar.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit refund is likely the single biggest check hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers will see all year but you have to file a tax return to get it," said Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz. "That's why the City is making it so easy to file tax returns for free at its network of more than 60 sites across the five boroughs and online. This refund is also a great opportunity to start saving and we have a limited number of

SaveUSA accounts left, allowing New Yorkers to make an additional 50 cents for every dollar saved from their refund for a year. Visit nyc.gov/taxprep to go get your refund!”

Some of the major outreach activities involve HRA’s Family Independence Administration (FIA) and the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) which especially focuses on noncustodial parents in this campaign:

- An informational EITC letter and palm card mailed to approximately 30,000 cash assistance clients.
- Noncustodial parents who appeared to be eligible for the credit also received mailing on the tax credit. Over 74,000 letters (involving 87,000 child support cases) were sent out this year.
- EITC literature in Food Stamps and Cash Assistance application kits available at HRA job centers across the city.
- An EITC focused message was recorded on HRA’s InfoLine, the phone line dedicated to answer the most common questions on HRA’s public assistance services and work supports.
- OCSE conducted outreach workshops and seminars targeting noncustodial parents directly and community based organizations who work with NCPs.

EITC FACTS

- Working New Yorkers with children earning up to \$48,362 could be eligible for up to \$7,600.
- Working New Yorkers with no children earning up to \$18,470 could be eligible for up to \$600.

TAX PREPARATION OPTIONS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites (Free)

- New Yorkers who earn less than \$50,000 with children or \$18,000 for those who do not have children can visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site in the five boroughs where a certified volunteer will prepare their taxes for free.

Online Tax Preparation (Free)

- New Yorkers earning less than \$57,000 can also file their taxes online for free through the City’s free tax preparation website on nyc.gov/taxprep.

Assisted Online Tax Preparation (Free)

- New Yorkers earning less than \$48,000 can visit 19 participating sites where they can prepare their taxes for free online on Intuit’s TurboTax Freedom Edition secure website. Trained tax guides are also available to walk people through the process and answer basic questions. A list of participating sites is available on nyc.gov/taxprep.

H&R Block Discount (Low-Cost)

- New Yorkers can also have their tax returns prepared at a participating H&R Block office with a new City-sponsored coupon for just \$29. To qualify for the H&R Block discount, residents must earn less than \$41,000 with children or \$31,000 if they have no children. Those interested should visit the City's website nyc.gov/taxprep to print out the coupon.