



TAX CREDIT OUTREACH

Community Referral to Improve Economic Mobility

Colorado State Library Partner Forum
December 6, 2022





TAX CREDITS AND TAX REBATES

What are tax credits?

- Tax credits are decreases in tax owed if eligible
- When the taxes are **refundable** we get that money back in a refund payment
- Payment can come in check or direct deposit

What are tax rebates?

- Tax rebates are refunds in taxes paid
- More Coloradans received a rebate in 2021 – the “Colorado Cash Back Rebate”
- Must file a state return to receive





WHY DO TAX CREDITS MATTER?

Refundable tax credits increase financial well-being and improve health outcomes including:

- Reduced infant mortality and low birth weight
- Reduced child maltreatment
- Increased intergenerational health
- Improved outcomes across the lifecourse, and generations
- Improved educational and earnings outcomes





IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO FAMILIES

2021's Child Tax Credit payments significantly reduced poverty and hunger.

- 24% decline in food insufficiency
- Financial anxiety reduced for 56% of families
- 3 million children lifted out of poverty last summer

How did families spend their credit?

- Food
- Child care
- School-related expenses



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WHO IS MISSING OUT?

One in four eligible Coloradans does not claim their EITC

- Very low-income families
- New parents
- Grandparent caregivers
- Newcomers - immigrant and refugee populations
- Non-English speaking communities
- Rural families





COMMON CONCERNS

- No earnings or job needed
- Does not impact other benefits like SNAP, TANF, Medicaid or housing.
- Mixed documentation families OK
- Can use tax ID number (ITIN) to file
- Only child needs SS # for CTC
- Does not affect immigration status now or in the future





Libraries: Trusted Community Messengers



How to Support Tax Filing?

1. Post flyers with QR codes linking to free tax help/info
2. Know where to refer (VITA, DOR, GetCTC.org, GetAheadColorado.org, Tax Help Colorado)
3. Train staff on tax credits and how to access tax filing assistance
4. Consider hosting trained IRS volunteers during tax season
5. Provide resources in languages other than English





More Ideas

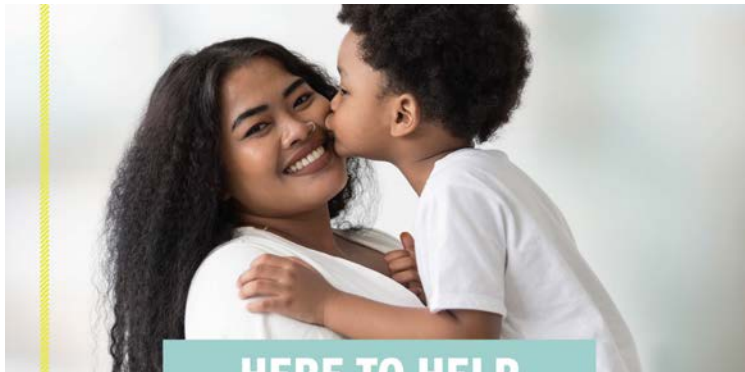
- Add a tax filing widget to your website
- If you provide computers for community use, designate one or more computer stations for “Do It Yourself” tax filing.
- Please reach out for an exploratory conversation about what this can look like
- Free tax filing software can be provided to you!



Outreach Materials, Media Plan and Awareness Campaign



- Flyers with QR codes, social media, brochures in English and Spanish
- Partner toolkit
- Videos in 11 languages



HERE TO HELP

YOU GET AHEAD

Whether it's tax credits, free tax filing services, or free in-person tax help, Get Ahead Colorado is here to help you get the most out of your taxes.

- » Get the Child Tax Credit or the Earned Income Tax Credit to put extra money back in your pocket.
- » Find free, in-person tax help in your area.
- » File your federal and state tax return online or on your phone for free.



Get started at www.GetAheadColorado.org





GETAHEADCOLORADO.ORG

Three Options for Tax Filing

- In-person tax help - VITA locator
- GetCTC.org and virtual help
- Free tax software for DIY

Other information

- Details about different tax credits available
- Updates: rebates, portals, events
- Outreach materials and partner toolkit





THANK YOU!

Have questions?

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