



# Ten Ways Early Childhood Programs Can Promote The Earned Income Credit and the Child Tax Credit

There are many opportunities to raise awareness about the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and The Child Tax Credit (CTC) and to help eligible working families and individuals claim these important tax benefits. Remember, both parents *and* staff may be eligible.

1. Display the EIC/CTC poster in your child care center, Head Start center, or family day care home. Keep EIC/CTC fact sheets and the appropriate tax forms — including Schedule EIC and Form 8812 on hand at the center for interested parents and staff.
2. Think about the things that go home with children. Artwork? Lunch menus? Send EIC/CTC materials along.
3. Publish an article about the EIC and the CTC in your newsletter.
4. Insert EIC/CTC information in staff paychecks.
5. Make the tax credits the featured topic at your next parent meeting or your next staff in-service training.
6. Organize a free tax-help day for parents and staff. You can find volunteers to help participants fill out tax forms by contacting the local VITA program (sponsored by the IRS), a local accounting firm, or a college or university that has an accounting program.
7. Share EIC/CTC information with other community organizations, such as the local school district, the county WIC program, or the library.
8. Think about your business partners, such as companies that provide food, classroom supplies or other items for your program. Ask them to help share information about the EIC and the CTC with their other customers and their own employees.
9. Parents and staff can become Tax Credit Ambassadors. They can distribute EIC/CTC information in their own workplaces, at church, or at schools their older children attend.
10. Don't forget about grandparents who are raising children or about foster parents. They may be eligible for the credits, too. Make sure they receive EIC/CTC information.

**For more information on how your program can promote the EIC and the CTC, contact the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, at 202-408-1080.**