



Ten Ways Housing Groups 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) to help eligible working families and individuals claim these important tax benefits. The EIC can help workers pay for housing and meet other crucial needs. Remember, both clients of housing programs and staff may be eligible.

1. Display the EIC/CTC poster in offices of affordable housing programs, shelters for the homeless, Housing Authority offices, and in rental offices and community centers at public housing complexes or mobile home parks.
2. Insert an EIC/CTC envelope stuffer into rent bills and notices to community residents or tenants and in employee paychecks.
3. Publish an article about the EIC and the CTC in your newsletter.
4. Make the tax credits the featured topic at your next residents' meeting or your next staff in-service training. Include information about advance EIC payments — which can help workers catch up on overdue rent or mortgage payments.
5. Inform applicants for affordable homeownership programs about the EIC and the CTC — it may help them with their down payment on a home or help them qualify for a low-interest mortgage.
6. Inform new homeowners or tenants about the EIC and the CTC. The credits can help workers pay for furniture, appliances or home repairs.
7. Inform homeless persons about the EIC and the CTC. They may have worked during the year or are looking for work. The credits can help them move from a shelter to an apartment by covering the first month's rent and security deposit.
8. Help provide free help with tax forms in your community. Post the locations of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in your community or work with the IRS to provide space for a VITA site.
9. At tax time, save your residents an extra trip by providing the tax forms workers need to claim the EIC and the CTC, including the Schedule EIC and Form 8812. Get free copies from the IRS by visiting www.irs.gov or calling 1-800-TAX-FORM. It's OK to make photocopies.
10. Share EIC/CTC information with partner organizations, such as churches, community development corporation boards, banks and city officials.

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

THE CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES