

Subject: ASSET Initiative: EITC update and outreach materials

Dear Partners and Friends in the New England Region:

As the year comes to a close and we reflect on the best strategies to help our communities prosper in 2010, consider spreading the word about the Earned Income Tax Credit as a possible resource for asset-building for working low-income families. Families can receive cash refunds of nearly \$6,000 based on the number of dependents in the household. Workers who are not raising a child in their home may claim the credit, too. Unfortunately, an estimated 25% of eligible people do not claim the refunds annually!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an important component of the Administration for Children and Families' Assets, Savings, Support, Education and Training (ASSET) Initiative. The ACF ASSET Initiative is a cross-agency effort to encourage asset building strategies and financial literacy education among vulnerable families served by ACF programs. With tax time fast approaching, it is time to begin EITC outreach and information sharing for Region 1 grantees, state and community partners.

This email provides several outreach options for your staff and networks, including:

- An EITC handout to distribute to families and individuals
- An EITC flyer to post in your agency, office or point-of-service location.

We encourage you to send an email with these attachments to your networks so that this information can reach as many as possible.

You might also want to consider ordering the Money Talks Tax Credit Outreach Kit from the Center for Budget Policies and Priorities (CBPP). Ordering and other information can be found at the CBPP EITC website: <http://eitcoutreach.org/>. You will find printable flyers in multiple languages as well as other tools for outreach on this site.

You are also invited to attend the Welfare Peer TA Network's Webinar series beginning January 6, 2010 on the EITC to: 1) provide state agencies with strategies for setting up a local or statewide coalition and 2) to provide participants with strategies for improving outreach and marketing and increasing participation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants in the EITC take-up. Participants will learn strategies for forming their own successful EITC coalitions to be able to utilize this coming tax year.

Click Here <<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=viewWebinarList&nav=19>> for More Information or to Register for the Webinar!

If you have any questions about EITC or need assistance promoting EITC please contact Stefanie Whorton, ASSET Initiative EITC Coordinator at Stefanie.Whorton@acf.hhs.gov 202-401-5295.

(or, a contact from the regional office could be inserted above)

Thank you for your efforts to support children and families this year!

Sincerely,