

## What Is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit eligible to low- and moderate-income working individuals and families, created to help balance out the weight of social security taxes and to provide an additional reason for individuals to seek and maintain employment.
- **A taxpayer must meet certain requirements and file a tax return to qualify for this credit, even if his or her income is below that which mandates filing a tax return.**
- Depending on income, EITC can be worth as much as several thousand dollars, and can boost a family's income by nearly 35 percent.
- **For tax year 2008**, earned income and adjusted gross income must each be less than:
  - \$38,646 (\$41,646 if married and filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children
  - \$33,995 (\$36,995 if married and filing jointly) with one qualifying child
  - \$12,880 (\$15,880 if married and filing jointly) with no qualifying children
- EITC provides more immediate financial assistance to working individuals and families in need than any other effort.

## Where Can I Find Help to File My Taxes?

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** programs around the state offer **free tax preparation** services to individuals and families with low or limited income, individuals with disabilities, senior citizens and military personnel and their families.
- **To find a VITA site, visit the Community Information and Referral (CIR) web site at [www.cir.org](http://www.cir.org) and click on Income Tax Assistance. Or call CIR at 602-263-8856.**
- Residents can also **check with their local United Way** for information on free tax preparation services in the community or **visit [www.AZ211.gov](http://www.AZ211.gov), click on VITA Free Help with tax forms.**

## What Do I Need to Take to a VITA site?

- ✓ Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse
- ✓ Social Security cards or ITIN cards/numbers for all household members
- ✓ Proof of income, including W-2's and 1099 forms
- ✓ Name, address and tax ID# of child care provider
- ✓ Amount of money paid to childcare provider last year
- ✓ Account and routing numbers for direct deposit
- ✓ Copy of last year's tax return
- ✓ If filing jointly, both adults must be present to sign the return.