

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ***VALUABLE TAX CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR SOME LOW TO MODERATE INCOME WORKERS***

People who work, but do not earn much money, may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit—as well as free help preparing their tax return.

IRS estimates that 20 to 25 percent of eligible taxpayers fail to claim the credit—which could put as much as \$5,657 into the pockets of a family with three or more children, \$5,028 for a family with two children, \$3,043 for a family with one child, or up to \$457 for a worker with no children. The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefitting lower-earning workers.

The IRS has joined together with the Monmouth County Financial Stability Partnership, which includes the following members: Monmouth University, Brookdale Community College, Community Enterprises Corporation, Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board, SCAN Learning Center and the United Way of Monmouth County, in order to bring this tax credit program to those low income taxpayers who are eligible.

"The extra dollars eligible taxpayers can receive through EITC can make a considerable impact in their lives, especially in this economy," said Tim Hearne, President & CEO, United Way of Monmouth County. "There are many people who aren't aware of the amount they can get back, so it's important that those with a lower income file tax returns, even if they aren't required to, and claim the credit."

Hearne said some individuals and families may qualify for the credit for the first time because of unemployment or other changes in their financial, marital or parental status during the past year.

Taxpayers who earn the following (or less) should check to see if they qualify: \$43,279 (\$48,279 if married filing jointly) for families with three or more children; \$40,295 (\$45,295 if married filing jointly) for families with two children; \$35,463 (\$40,463 if married filing jointly) if there is one child; or \$13,440 (\$18,440 if married filing jointly) for no children. Investment income must be \$3,100 or less, and children must meet certain relationship and residency requirements.

The EITC is a valuable, but complex, tax break. Free help is available to

determine eligibility and file to claim the credit at volunteer tax assistance sites or, for those who cannot visit a site during hours/days of operation, at a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center.

The following are the locations and hours of operations of free tax preparation sites in this area:

**Eatontown**

SCAN Learning Center in the Monmouth Mall

NJ Route 35 & 36, Eatontown, NJ 07724

Hours of Operation – February 20 - April 12, Saturdays and Mondays only

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mondays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

By appointment only

Contact the United Way at 732-938-5988

**Long Branch**

Brookdale Community College Long Branch Higher Education Center

213 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07712

Hours of Operation – February 23 - April 13, Tuesdays and Thursdays only

5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – by appointment only

Contact the United Way at 732-938-5988

**West Long Branch**

Monmouth University

400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

Hours of Operation – February 10 - April 14 in McAllen Hall, lower level,  
Room 27

Hours of Operation – Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays only

Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Walk-ins for current students only – all others by appointment only

Contact the United Way at 732-938-5988

People should come prepared with the following items:

- Valid driver's license or photo identification (self & spouse, if applicable)
- Social Security cards for client, spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for client, spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Current year's tax package (if the client received one)
- All income statements: Forms W-2, Social Security, Unemployment or other benefits statements, self-employment records and any documents showing taxes withheld
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)
- Dependent child care information: payee's name, address and SSN or TIN

- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit (if applicable)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns (if available)
- Prior year tax return (if available)
- Any other pertinent documents or papers

To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms. For more information contact: United Way of Monmouth County at 732-938-5988 or Community Enterprises Corporation at 732-780-1175.

United Way of Monmouth County, incorporated in 1967, is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that raises funds to advance the common good. This organization creates opportunities for a better life for all by focusing our efforts on **Education, Income and Health**. If you would like to know more about United Way of Monmouth County, please visit our website at [www.uwmonmouth.org](http://www.uwmonmouth.org).

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