

In the upcoming weeks the Summer Youth Employment Program will resume. The OHA Employment Services Department will be looking to recruit 130 certified applicants to enroll in the SYEP. The program will begin on June 28, 2010.



The program will include applicants from 16-21 years of age. They will be given a chance to work at least 32 hours per week, being paid twice monthly. The program will operate for nine full weeks, giving the workers twice as many hours as last summer. The program will run until August 27, 2010. We encourage all persons who are interested to apply for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

The staff will continue to bring in guest speakers to be an inspiration and a guide to the youth participants. For more information on upcoming Employment Services activities please call 247-0379. Ms. Williams can be reached at extension 315 and Mr. Dabney can be found at 317.



EITC Day Kicks Off, Start the Savings

By Lee Churchill
Assistant Planner

The Office of Human Affairs (OHA) and the Families Achieving Community Economic Stability Coalition (FACES) kicked off EITC day on Friday, February 5th at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center Building in Newport News. Starting off the event, Wendell F. Braxton, Executive Director for OHA, introduced Congressman Rob Wittman. Congressman Wittman discussed the value behind EITC, short for Earned Income Tax Credit, emphasizing that many who qualified for the credit would miss out in its first year simply because they were not aware they were eligible.

Congressman Robert “Bobby” Scott was next, and he was just as enthusiastic about the value behind the credit as Congressman



Congressman Scott and Executive Director Braxton

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Wittman. He discussed how the EITC was set up to off set the social security tax problem and how it made sure that lower income families are not losing a majority of their income. He further stated that the credit is an essential tool in the economic recovery, noting that money an individual misses out on is money that the community misses out on.

Finally, we were treated to a presentation from Earl Johnson, Director of Public Affairs for the Social Security Office, and a part of the FACES coalition. He listed the 2010 goals, which included increasing the number of applications, to further increase their presence by letting people know they are there, and most importantly, to get the word out. He stressed that if you do not need it, you might know someone that does need it. Also included in the presentation were all the helpful and easy by products that volunteers made possible, which include the ability to process returns electronically, which means faster refunds, some in as little as seven days.

What is the EITC? It is a federal income tax credit for people who work, but don't earn much money. If you qualify, it could be worth up to \$5,657 this year. So you could pay less federal tax or even get a refund. The EITC is for people who generally earn less than \$43,279 (\$48,279 married filing jointly). You may be eligible for the credit if you meet the rules.

1. You must have earned income from employment or self-employment.
2. Your earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must be less than:

- \$13,440 (\$18,440 if married filing jointly) with no qualifying children
- \$35,463 (\$40,463 if married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$40,295 (\$45,295 if married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$43,279 (\$48,279 if married filing jointly) with three qualifying children, new this year

3. Your investment income (such as interest) must be \$3,100 or less.

4. Your filing status cannot be married filing separately.

5. You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing a joint return.

6. You must have a valid Social Security Number (SSN).

7. You cannot be a qualifying child of another person.

8. If you do not have a qualifying child, you must:

- be age 25 but under 65 at the end of the year,
- live in the United States for more than half the year,
- and not qualify as a dependent of another person.



Congressman Wittman

In closing, Mr. Braxton returned to thank all the volunteers and staff for their many hours of dedicated service. As Congressman Scott said, any money that an individual misses out on is money the community loses as well. And in this trying economy, we should all be after what is rightfully ours.