



EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) INITIATIVE

Virginia CASH Campaign

VACAP's EITC Initiative and grant program supports community groups and coalitions in Virginia that provide free tax preparation services and promote financial literacy, savings and asset building to low-income working individuals and families.

Highlights this tax season include:

- \$185,725 EITC grant funds distributed to 28 coalitions serving taxpayers in Central Virginia, Tidewater and Eastern Shore, Northern Virginia, Piedmont and Western Virginia.
- Over 21,000 federal and state tax returns electronically filed and clients obtained over \$30.8 million in tax refunds (including \$10 million in EITC and other credits that supplement wages).
- Average tax refund of \$1,452 for clients earning an average of \$17,927. This refund represents about 8% of the client's annual income.
- Over \$4 million dollars saved by taxpayers not using paid preparers, resulting in clients able to keep 100% of their refunds.
- Recruited and trained over 1,000 volunteers who gave over 40,000 hours to the program representing \$880,000 in in-kind services. The Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Services estimates that the value of volunteer time to be \$22.03/hour.
- Over 4,000 employers informed their employees about the free tax service program.
- Financial education programs, credit report counseling and benefits screening in addition to free tax preparation were offered at many free tax preparation sites.
- Program linked with Virginia Individual Development Account to further enhance savings initiatives.
- Pilot program for Free File/Assisted Self-Tax Preparation.

"The smiles and relief were great to see and we thank VITA for the opportunity to be part of helping families in the community."

"It has been a wonderful experience to work with the VITA program as an AmeriCorps volunteer."



ECDC Enterprise Development Group piloted the Free File Assisted Self-Tax Preparation Program at its VITA site in Arlington



Longtime VITA volunteer Steve Garrett (standing) and site coordinator Teffany Henderson help a taxpayer at Total Action Against Poverty's free tax preparation site in Roanoke