

Get \$SMART Wausau

C O A L I T I O N

"Educating people to make smart money choices."

Q What is the Earned Income Tax Credit and how do I know if I qualify for it?

A One of the largest benefit programs for working taxpayers is also one of the most overlooked tax credits. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is for people who work for a living but don't make a lot of money.

You may qualify if your income was under \$48,362 last year and you, or your spouse, had income from wages, self-employment, farming or, if under the minimum retirement age, from disability retirement benefits paid under an employer plan. The amount of your EITC could be as much as \$5,666 depending on how much you earned, your filing status, whether you have children, etc. To get the EITC you earned, you must file a federal tax return and claim the EITC. Following are the income requirements for 2010:

- \$13,460 with no qualifying child (\$18,470 if married, filing jointly)
- \$35,535 with 1 qualifying child (\$40,545 if married, filing jointly)
- \$40,363 with 2 qualifying children (\$45,373 if married, filing jointly)
- \$43,352 with more than 2 qualifying children (48,362 if married, filing jointly)
- Investment income cannot be more than \$2,950

In Wausau, there are 2 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites which will compute your EITC and prepare your return without a charge. AARP offers tax preparation assistance for federal and state tax returns for middle and low income households with special consideration to those who are age 60 and older. The NTC site is available for taxpayers with income under \$42,000 without business ownership, rental property or capital gains. **Call United Way's 2-1-1 or 848-2255 weekdays between 8am-5pm for dates, times and location information of both sites, documents to bring and to schedule an appointment for the AARP site.**

Visit www.getsmartwausau.org for information on free or low-cost local programs to help you make smart money choices.