



Thousands in Northern Nevada Overlook Valuable Tax Credit

(Reno, NV) – Thousands of northern Nevadans may be eligible for a special tax credit this year and not even be aware of it. As a result, these individuals could miss the opportunity to collect up to \$5,891 extra in their federal income tax refunds through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). United Way Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) encourages any worker who earned \$51,000 or less from wages, is self-employed or works in the farming industry to determine if they qualify.

EITC is one of the federal government's largest benefit programs for working families and individuals. Last year, more than 210,000 Nevadans filed for EITC and the average credit was more than \$2,100 per person. Historically, one in five workers have missed out on thousands of dollars every year because they fail to claim their EITC.

"This money can make a real difference to workers struggling in this recovering economy" said Karen Barsell, CEO and president of UWNNS. "Many people will qualify for the first time this year due to changes in their economic circumstances."

To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they do not have a filing requirement. Potentially qualifying taxpayers include workers who are:

- living in rural areas
- self-employed
- receiving certain disability pensions or have children with disabilities
- without a qualifying child
- not proficient in English
- grandparents raising their grandchildren
- recently divorced, unemployed, or who experienced other changes to their marital, financial or parental status.

Free help from IRS trained volunteers is available to EITC-eligible taxpayers in northern Nevada through volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) sites. For a complete list of locations and hours, visit www.nevada211.org or call 2-1-1 for more information. If taxpayers would like additional information about EITC, they can visit irs.gov and type "EITC" in their preferred search engine.

To help accurately determine EITC eligibility and prepare returns, individuals should have available:

- Photo proof of identification

- Social Security cards for themselves, their spouse and all dependents or Social Security number verification letters issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for all persons listed on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Copies of their prior year federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit of their refunds
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Amounts paid for day care, if applicable, and the day care provider's identifying number.

Both spouses must be present to sign joint returns. Anyone paid to prepare federal income tax returns is required by law to sign the return and enter their Preparer Tax Identification Number.

About United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

United Way believes the foundation of a happy, productive life is made up of three 'building blocks' – education, financial stability and health. United Way creates positive, lasting change through the organization's expertise, capacity and relationships. This year, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra is celebrating our 70th Anniversary. With your help we will reach the goal of \$100 million raised since we started in 1942. To help celebrate this goal, we have established the \$100 Million Club. We invite everyone who gives to United Way to become a "\$100 Million Dollar Club" member. For more information, call 775-322-8668 or visit www.uwnns.org.

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