

MTA Bus Card Campaign Launches Tax Credit Drive for Low-Income Workers

The Earned Income tax Credit Campaign, a partnership created in 2000 by the County and City of Los Angeles, the Internal Revenue Service and MTA, has generated more than \$14 million in additional credits and refunds for Los Angeles workers, officials announced today at MTA Headquarters.

The announcement preceded the unveiling of a new bus card campaign to launch the tax credit drive for 2001 and to help get the word out to low-to-middle income families and to very low-income individuals.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit that allows qualified families who worked full- or part-time during 2000 and earned less than \$31,152 to receive a tax refund credit of up to \$3,888.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's most effective anti-poverty program and a way to put thousands of dollars back into the hands of working families," said Mayor Richard Riordan.

The Earned Income Tax Credit may be retroactive for up to three years, so workers who qualified in previous years, but did not take the credit, may receive a refund by filing an original or amended tax return.

Workers who did not have to file because of low income also may qualify for a refund.

For information and assistance, individuals may call the Earned Income Tax Credit hotline at (800) 601-5552. Forms and assistance are also available on-line at www.eitc-la.com.

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What is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The EITC is a tax credit for people who work, but don't earn high incomes. If You qualify, you could pay less federal tax or no tax--even get a tax refund. To qualify, you must meet certain rules and file a tax return, even if you don't owe any tax or didn't earn enough money to require filing a tax return.

