



## Illinois Department of Human Services

### DO YOU WANT MORE MONEY?

If you worked in 2008, you may be eligible to receive a cash payment from the federal government. It is called the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and it can be worth up to:

- \$2,917 if you have 1 child; or
- \$4,824 if you have 2 or more children; or
- \$438 if you have no children.

You can only get EITC if you apply for it on your federal income tax return.

Even if you do not owe federal income taxes, **you must file a tax return to receive the EITC.** Be sure to fill out the EITC forms on the tax return.

If you worked in the last 3 years and you did not receive an EITC payment for each of those 3 years in which you worked, you may still apply for EITC benefits for those years by filing an amended tax return. If eligible, you may receive a portion of the EITC on your paycheck instead of as a tax refund. To do this you must complete Form W-5. You can get this from your employer, the IRS, or your DHS local office. Getting the credit with your paycheck puts more money in your pocket each paycheck.

For more information about the EITC, ask your employer, or call the IRS at (800) 829-1040 toll free, or ask your caseworker.

### State Earned Income Tax Credit

Taxpayers who are eligible for the federal EITC also qualify for an Illinois tax credit. The State EITC is 5% of the federal EITC amount not to exceed \$241 for the 2008 tax year. The state EITC may lower the amount of state income tax you must pay, and, if you have children under 18, may also increase your state refund. You can receive the state EITC by entering the amount of your federal EITC on the state income tax form.

Receipt of either the federal or state EITC **will not** affect your current cash, medical, or food stamp benefits.

If you live in Cook County and need help preparing and filing your tax return or want a listing of free tax preparation services and sites, call (312) 630-0273. If you live in Cook, DuPage or Kane County, you can also call (312) 409-1555. In other areas of the state, call (888) 827-8511. The TTY number is (312) 701-1326. Information is also available directly from the IRS at (800) 829-1040 or (800) 829-4059 (TTY).