

Restore the state EITC!

Give credit where credit is due

Over 250,000 Coloradans struggle to make ends meet, and the state EITC is an effective policy that helps low-income working people become self-sufficient. The state EITC not only assists low-income people with their immediate needs like rent, healthcare, childcare, and bills, but it has been proven to support local economies and regional economic development.

Colorado's families and communities continue in the ongoing fight to combat poverty. The state legislature has the power to restore the state EITC to 10% of the federal credit and make it permanent. Hardworking families deserve credit where credit is due, and now is the time.

Send me more information about the state Earned Income Tax Credit, and about how I can get involved.

Add our organization and/or my name to endorse making the state Earned Income Tax Credit Permanent.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Fax to Jessie Ulibarri at (303) 832-6416, mail to 1600 Downing Street Suite 210, Denver CO 80218, or email to EITCcoalition@gmail.com

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

9to5, National Association of Working Women
AAUW
All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition
The Alliance of Professional Women
The Bell Policy Center
Capitol Hill United Ministries
Center for Policy Entrepreneurship
Colorado ACORN
Colorado Black Women for Political Action
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Colorado Coalition for Girls
Colorado Center for Law & Policy
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Colorado Progressive Action
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Colorado Society for Clinical Social Workers
Colorado Women's Agenda
CPC Pueblo
Cross Community Coalition
CWEE Center for Work Education and Employment
Colorado Women's Agenda
Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC)
Denver Urban Ministries
Denver Women's Commission
Energy Outreach Colorado
Gary-Williams Energy Corp
Hunger for Justice: Interfaith Voices Against Poverty
Latina Initiative
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry -- CO
Metro CareRing
National Association of Social Workers—Colorado Chapter
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
Project Self-Sufficiency- (Larimer County)
Project WISE
Rural Community Resource Center
Rocky Mountain SER Denver Head Start
Women and Family Action Network (Women's FAN)
Women's Foundation of Colorado
Women's Lobby of Colorado

EITC Coalition
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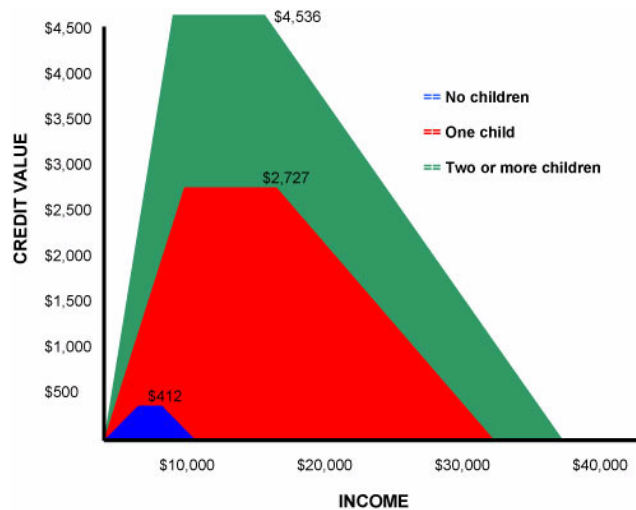


**Working to restore the state
Earned Income Tax Credit
and make it permanent !**

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How does the EITC work ?

The EITC is a refundable tax credit offered to working families that earn less than 200% of federal poverty guidelines, which is less than about \$40,000 for a family of four in 2007. The EITC reduces the amount of income tax a family owes, and when the amount of the tax credit exceeds the amount owed, it results in a refund. The EITC began as a federal initiative 30 years ago, but twenty-two states have enacted state EITC programs to alleviate poverty in their communities.



What is the EITC Coalition?

Even with a steady job, many working families in Colorado struggle to make ends meet. A recent report from the *Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute* states that **one in five Colorado households –over 250,000 families– lacks enough money to cover basic living expenses.** Simply stated, their wages are inadequate to meet their costs for housing, food, childcare, health care and transportation.

The EITC Coalition is a diverse, nonpartisan partnership of service providers, corporations, free tax-sites, non-profit organizations, faith communities, and EITC recipients that are working to restore the state EITC and make it permanent as a first step to ending poverty in Colorado.

Colorado's EITC timeline

Created to balance the 1999-2000 permanent reductions in the state income tax rate, which benefited middle and upper-income residents, the EITC was paid in Tax Year (TY) 1999, 2000 and 2001. In TY 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 it was not paid because of low state revenues. From 2006-2010, it will not be paid because Referendum C abolishes the TABOR surplus that would fund this tax credit.

Twenty-two states have state Earned Income Tax Credits. During the recession years, 2002-2004, twelve states expanded their state EITC. Maine temporarily reduced their state EITC, then restored it. **Only Colorado suspended funding for their state EITC.***

**Analyzing Recent State Tax Policy Choices Affecting Low-Income Working Families: The Recession and Beyond* by The Urban Institute. November 2006.

The impact of a state EITC

Families can spend more time raising their children. Money from the EITC can help lift family incomes, helping to pay for necessary expenses, such as food, clothing, healthcare or transportation costs. This will allow parents to spend less time worrying about money and more time invested in their families.

There will be more money going into the Colorado economy. Money received from the EITC will allow working families to put money back into their own communities. Consequently, small business and local economies also benefit from this credit.

The state government will make the first step to end poverty. By supporting the EITC, legislators will change the course of politics in Colorado to serve the common good. A vote for restoring the EITC and making it permanent shows that legislators choose to support hardworking people and families in their pursuit to become self-sufficient.

How to get involved:

The success of the EITC Coalition depends on the support of individuals and organizations to move this issue forward. There are many ways to get involved, and we need your help!

- **Register to vote**—Policymakers have the ability to restore the EITC and make it permanent, but we, as voters, have the ability to elect politicians that support the EITC. Register today to use your vote as your voice!
- **Become an EITC activist**—Join us for an interactive workshop to learn vital skills to become a vocal advocate for the state EITC. This half-day workshop will cover grassroots organizing skills, media training and tips for talking with your legislators. E-mail us at EITCcoalition@gmail.com for more information and dates of upcoming trainings.
- **Compose an EITC testimonial**—If you've received the state or federal EITC, send us a testimonial about your experiences with the credit. Policymakers need to hear your stories in the process to restore the state EITC. Contact us by phone or e-mail so we can send you a testimonial form.
- **Write a letter to the editor**—A great way to show your support for this issue is to write a letter to your local newspaper, identifying why you support the restoration of the state EITC.
- **Talk to your network**—We need the support of your family, co-workers and friends to restore the state EITC. Talk to them about the importance of this issue, and get them involved with the campaign!
- **Join the EITC Coalition**— Fill out the form on the back of this brochure and send it to the EITC Coalition. We can send you more information about this issue and this campaign, and add you or your organization to our list of supporters.