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THE DUMA CONGRESS STUDY GROUP

Congress of the United States
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Dear Friends,

Did you or your spouse earn income during 2011? Did your household earn between **\$1 and \$49,078?** If you answered "yes" to these questions, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC is a special credit to boost the incomes of working families. Each year, the EITC lifts over six million workers out of poverty. This credit reduces the amount of income tax you owe and can provide **cash back up to \$5,751** if the amount of the credit exceeds the amount you owe.

To receive this credit, you must meet the eligibility requirements and you must file a tax return. Please refer to the reverse side for more details, visit www.irs.gov/eitc, or refer to IRS Publication #596 for a more in-depth explanation. The EITC will not affect eligibility for welfare benefits such as temporary assistance for needy families, Medicaid and SSI, or food stamps and low-income housing.

If you need help filing your tax forms or claiming the EITC or many other tax credits, visit www.iris.gov or call 1-800-906-9887 to ask about the free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program near you.

Many residents of the Third Congressional District of Florida qualify for the EITC. Typically, four out of five people who claim the credit will get it. I hope that all of you who qualify take advantage of this valuable credit and the resources available for help with tax preparation.

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



You could be eligible for more money back from the IRS!

If your family earned less than \$49,078 last year, you may qualify for nearly \$6,000 cash back from the IRS through the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) - or EITC. You can qualify for EITC even if you had no federal tax withheld, owe no taxes or are not required to file, but you must claim the credit to get it.

Earned less than	Qualifying children	Credit or cash up to
\$43,998 (\$49,078 married filing jointly)	3	\$5,751
\$40,964 (\$46,044 married filing jointly)	2	\$5,112
\$36,052 (\$41,132 married filing jointly)	1	\$3,094
\$13,660 (\$18,740 married filing jointly)	0	\$464

“Qualifying children” can include your kids and other dependents such as grandchildren, students, and disabled adults who lived with you for at least half of last year. Eligibility is based on [several factors](#). Use IRS's online [EITC Assistant](#) at www.irs.gov/eitc to see if you qualify. (A [Spanish version](#) is available.)

Remember, if you are eligible, you must file a federal income tax return and you must specifically claim the credit to get it. **You earned it. Now file, claim it and get it.**

Free Tax Return Preparation Assistance & Free Online Filing

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

Trained volunteers can help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. Most sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing) for faster refunds.

- To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-906-9887.
- To locate the nearest TCE site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit www.aarp.org
- **Most people can file online for free.** Learn more here: www.irs.gov/efile

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