



Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development
Secretariat of Catholic Education

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3160
WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/JPHD • FAX 202-541-3339

TO: Superintendents and Diocesan Contacts

FROM: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development
Secretariat of Catholic Education

RE: 2014 Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach Campaign

DATE: March 2014

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church notes:

250. In order to protect [the] relationship between family and work, an element that must be appreciated and safeguarded is that of a family wage, a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently. Such a wage must also allow for savings that will permit the acquisition of property as a guarantee of freedom. The right to property is closely connected with the existence of families, which protect themselves from need thanks also to savings and to the building up of family property. There can be several different ways to make a family wage a concrete reality. Various forms of important social provisions help to bring it about, for example, family subsidies and other contributions for dependent family members, and also remuneration for the domestic work done in the home by one of the parents.

Millions of working poor families are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their daily needs and achieve financial security. One of the ways our society provides the “family subsidies” to which the *Compendium* refers is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Earlier this year, the Census Bureau reported that the EITC, combined with the Child Tax Credit (CTC), lifts over four million children out of poverty, making them the most potent tool the government has for fighting child poverty.

These powerful antipoverty initiatives deliver critical income support for millions of workers in low-wage jobs. Claiming these tax credits put families on the path to securing better housing, pursuing quality education, obtaining dependable transportation, covering out-of-pocket health care costs, or paying for quality childcare. It is important that we continue this outreach to help ensure that low and moderate-income working families do not miss out on these benefits.

Enclosed is information regarding the 2014 Tax Credit Outreach Kit. More information can be found at www.eitcoutreach.org.

Thank you for your help and for all that you do to serve poor and vulnerable people and families. Any questions about the program can be directed to Tom Mulloy, domestic policy advisor, at tmulloy@usccb.org.



EITC is for working people who earn less than \$51,567. This year, the credit can be from \$2 up to \$6,044. The credit amount changes based on:

- if you are single or married
- if you have no, one, two, or three or more children
- the amount you earned

Are you eligible to claim EITC for 2013?

Here are the rules to claim the credit . . .

- Must work and have earned income
- Must have a valid Social Security number
- Investment income limited to \$3,300
- Generally must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Cannot file as married filing separately
- Cannot be a qualifying child of another person
- Cannot file Form 2555 or 2555-EZ (related to foreign earned income)

You have to file a federal tax return to get EITC even if you owe no tax or are not required to file. EITC provides a boost to help pay your bills, fix up your place, or save for a rainy day.

Just imagine what you could do with EITC.