



A periodic email newsletter from Anthony Maione, President & CEO, intended to provide community leaders and partners with information about United Way's ongoing efforts to reduce the number of people in need in Rhode Island.

EITC Initiative Helping Thousands of Rhode Islanders

Three years ago, I'm not sure how many of us knew what an Earned Income Tax Credit was. But today thanks to an outreach initiative spearheaded and funded by United Way, thousands of Rhode Islanders and dozens of employers are aware of this important benefit that is available to hard working families across the State.

Started in 1975, EITC is the federal government's largest anti-poverty program. For the 2006 tax year for example, working families (with two children) and an income of less than \$38,348 are eligible for an EITC benefit worth up to \$4,500.

UWRI Playing Lead Role

United Way is the largest single in-state funder of the outreach effort. Over the last two years, we've committed \$260,000 to the project and plan to spend an additional \$570,000 over the next three to train volunteers, support tax preparation or VITA sites and fund outreach efforts.

We're also supporting a toll free information number (**1-866-780-6780**) staffed by ACORN to answer questions and direct callers to the nearest VITA site where taxes are prepared free of charge.

Impressive Results that Improve Lives

To date, \$13 million in EITC, other tax credits, refunds and saved tax preparation fees have been put into the hands of hardworking Rhode Islanders and into our economy. We know, for example, that returns are spent locally on food and clothing, a down payment on a better place to live or other needed essentials.

Financial literacy is also an important part of the initiative. Many EITC recipients are "un-banked" and are being provided with the opportunity to learn basic money management skills as well as open checking and savings accounts.

Community-Wide Support

The initiative's success would not be possible without the help of employers at United Way companies where information is made available during our workplace campaign presentations and through payroll stuffers and flyers distributed to employees. The outreach effort has been enhanced by the state Department of Human Services, which has mailed EITC information to about 30,000 Rhode Islanders for each of the last three years.

With many of Rhode Island's human service supports in jeopardy because of the state budget situation, it's important that hardworking families have every option available to stay in their homes and provide for their children. EITC can help. For more information, please contact me by using the email link on this page. Thanks.

Tony