

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Weekly Radio Address Urges Families to Apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor urges working families in New Jersey to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC). Last year, more than 70,000 New Jersey families that made less than \$30,000 didn't claim the EIC they were due.

This year, EIC can help provide the extra dollars thousands of those families need to make ends meet. Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Message

March 13, 1998

As Governor, I've cut taxes 17 times and, in my recent budget address, I called for tax cut number 18.

Cutting taxes is something I like to do. In fact, I've also called for amending the State Constitution to make it a lot harder to raise taxes. I want to make all future state tax increases subject to a super-majority. Unless two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature vote to raise a tax, that tax will not increase.

And, speaking of taxes, we all know that April 15th is the deadline for filing our income tax return. Everyone should pay his or her fair share - but for some working families, that share may be less than they think.

Working families who earned less than \$30,000 last year are eligible for a tax refund. It's called the Earned Income Tax Credit or EIC.

EIC helps thousands of working families in New Jersey by providing the extra dollars they may need to make ends meet. Even if you don't owe federal income tax, the IRS may owe you money through the Earned Income Tax Credit. But you have to apply.

And there's a number to call as well, which I'll give you in a minute.

Last year, more than 70,000 New Jersey families didn't claim the Earned Income Tax Credit they were due. That's about \$100 million in tax refunds that could be benefiting families here in New Jersey. In tax year 1996, some 434,000 families filed for EIC and received checks averaging \$1,400.

In fact, families with two or more kids can get up to \$3,600. Those with one child can get up to \$2,200. And even couples with no children can get up to \$300 or more.

This year, I'm very proud that, once again, state government is joining with the private sector in a campaign to make people aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit. We're working with the Association for Children of New Jersey, PSE&G, and the Internal Revenue Service to spread the word that working families and individuals may be entitled to money back through EIC.

And the results speak for themselves: last year, more than \$600 million was returned this year to working families and individuals. With this money they: paid their bills maintained their homes bought food and clothes for their kids, and paid for child care so they could keep working. That's what EIC is about -- families making it on their own. No government assistance and no burden to other taxpayers.

To get this credit, a family or working individual just has to file a federal income tax return and attach a Schedule EIC. Completing this form can mean a check in the mail from the IRS.

If you'd like more information about the Earned Income Tax Credit, here's a number to call: 1-800-829-1040. That's 1-800-829- 1040. Take the time to make this call. Find out if you're entitled to an Earned Income Tax Credit. After all, it's your money. DCA and the CRDA to work toward the common goal of community revitalization in Atlantic City.

"We look forward to working closely with the CRDA to improve the quality of life in these neighborhoods," said Kenny. "The Neighborhood Preservation program is an effective way of bringing people together to meet the unique needs of a community."

CRDA Chairman Fred Nickles said the partnership with the DCA provides his agency with another vehicle for assisting residents of Atlantic City. In extending the Bungalow Park initiative, the CRDA funds will be used to leverage city and other funds for housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements and finance community activities.