



To: Member Mayors
From: Tom Cochran *Tom Cochran*
Executive Director
Date: December 14, 2006
Re: Earned Income Tax Credit Tool Kits

Over the past several years The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been involved in a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to focus attention on what mayors can do to help working families achieve economic success. To help mayors do this, the Conference is working with Casey to assist in developing local campaigns to encourage working families to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Enclosed is the 2007 EITC and Child Care Tax Outreach Tool Kit put together by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, which includes specific guidelines to help you establish an EITC program. Additional information and resources on EITC can also be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service website (www.irs.gov).

Also included is a synopsis of best practices on EITC programs around the country that were gathered as part of the USCM DollarWi\$e campaign. The National DollarWi\$e Campaign, the official financial education effort of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, is focusing its work in 2007 on raising awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In the enclosed brochure you will find what DollarWi\$e cities from Savannah to San Francisco have done to help their residents claim the EITC.

Every year the EITC lifts more families out of poverty than any other program the federal government offers. However, it still remains one of the most underutilized programs out there. The EITC is a refundable tax credit available to working families and individuals earning low and moderate incomes. This year during tax season eligible working families who file for EITC will receive an average of around \$2,000, and as much as \$4,300.

We hope that you will join in this worthwhile campaign to help aid working families within your city. If you have any questions regarding the

EITC campaign or the tool kit please contact Kathy Amoroso, Assistant Executive Director, at (202)293-7330 or kamoroso@usmayors.org. For any questions about the DollarWi\$e campaign please contact Dave Gatton at (202) 861.6712 or dgatton@usmayors.org.