

New campaign launched to promote filing for EITC

The launch of a statewide campaign to bring millions of dollars to low- and moderate-income working families will be announced at 1 p.m., Monday, Jan. 6, at ShopRite Supermarket in Stanton. Called the Delaware EITC Campaign, the goal is to increase the number of Delaware residents who file for the federal earned income tax credit, better known as the EITC. A related goal is to increase the number of people who receive free tax filing assistance and do not have to pay exorbitant fees to tax preparation firms.

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, state Treasurer Jack Markell, and Wilmington Mayor James Baker will join supporters to kick off the Delaware EITC Campaign, which will offer information on the federal EITC.

"The EITC is a tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes - less than \$33,178 a year," said Minner. "It reduces the tax burden on these workers, supplements their wages, and helps families pay bills or save for the future. EITC refunds can be up to \$4,140 per year, based on family size and income."

The Delaware Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign will also help workers claim the credit by offering free tax help sites

throughout the state of Delaware starting Jan. 15. "We'll help workers with household incomes below \$35,000 prepare and electronically file their federal and state income tax returns and claim significant refunds through the federal earned income tax credit," said Markell. "Workers who think they earn too little to file tax returns could gain the most from this service by collecting hefty refunds from Uncle Sam."

E-filing provides the highest degree of speed, accuracy and security in filing tax returns. Workers can speed the process of their refund by e-filing their return and by arranging for a direct deposit into a bank account.

The Delaware Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign has been working closely with local employers, civic groups, religious organizations, and the IRS to recruit and train 250 qualified volunteers to prepare taxes as part of the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. At several tax sites, customers will also be able to open PNC savings accounts on the spot. Information



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will also be provided on financial education workshops and state programs that could help workers to save on daily expenses such as health-care benefits for kids, fuel assistance and food stamps.

The tax sites that are hosted by 12 nonprofit organizations in Wilmington, Newark, Middletown, Dover, Milford, Georgetown and Seaford will have regular hours throughout tax season. The Delaware Help Line at 800-464-4357 will be available to taxpayers to provide them with scheduling other basic information regarding the Campaign and tax preparation.

The EITC Campaign is managed by the Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation in Wilmington.

Campaign partners include Minner, Markell, Baker, the Delaware Food Industry Council, Delaware Help Line, McDonald's, JP Morgan Chase, Citibank Trust, PNC Bank, Discover Bank, First USA Bank, Commerce Bank, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), FastSigns, "The News Journal," Cape Gazette, WJBR- FM Radio, WILM Radio, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, Delaware Technical & Community College in Georgetown, Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Speer Trust, Delaware Community Foundation, United Way of Delaware, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, Neighborhood House,

Police Athletic League, Westside Health Center, Modern Maturity Center, YMCA of Delaware, United Way of Delaware, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, National Association of Black Accountants Inc. Greater

Wilmington chapter, University of Delaware School of Business, Delaware State University Accounting Department, Delaware Society of CPAs, Artesian Water, and numerous other faith-based, nonprofit, corporate and public organizations

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406 South Bedford Street Georgetown, Delaware

Williams elected to Digital Delaware board

The Delaware Small Business Development Center recently announced Barry Williams was elected to the Digital Delaware board of directors. Digital Delaware is a networking group for Delaware's small technology business community. Williams is director of the Delaware