

Bank of America supports United Way's tax help outreach program

United Way of Delaware announced recently it is one of 31 United Way organizations nationwide to receive funding from Bank of America to provide community outreach to eligible taxpayers in Delaware for the earned income tax credit.

The funding aims to help link to qualified families to a federal tax refund using the credit.

The ed income tax credit (EITC) grant is part of a partnership between United Way of America and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, which has offered \$500,000 in grants nationwide.

The \$10,000 grant to United Way of Delaware will be used to fund cash coordinators at Nehemiah Gateway-sponsored, local EITC tax preparation sites.

Coordinators from Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corp., designed to promote financial well-being among Delaware families, will provide financial literacy information and promotion of the split refund concept. In an effort to encourage saving, for the first time, the Internal Revenue Service is allowing tax refunds to be deposited into two or more accounts.

"Bank of America's generosity helps support and expand United Way's efforts in Delaware to promote a critical program that increases eligible families' access to the tax credit and, in turn, makes a financial investment in our community," said United Way of Delaware President Drew Langloh.

The EITC campaign will include marketing and outreach to eligible tax filers; free tax preparation for low-income individuals and families - those earning under \$38,000 annually - using volunteer tax preparers; and financial education and other asset building opportunities.

In communities where United Way is involved, thousands of families have received more than \$8 billion in EITC refunds.

"United Way of America and Bank of America are committed

to increasing the financial stability and long-term economic independence of low- to moderate-income individuals and families nationwide," said Brian A. Gallagher, president and CEO of United Way of America.

United Way of America will provide leadership and technical assistance to the 31 participating United Way organizations and will coordinate key project components including creating goals, objectives and outcomes; complying with grant guidelines; disbursing funds; and reporting the national results of the partnership, including the number of taxpayers helped.

Statewide and local United Way grant recipients will be responsible for strategic administration and oversight of grant resources by the community-based EITC coalition and will work with local Bank of America employees to promote volunteer opportunities regarding EITC outreach and free tax preparation.

To access the EITC outreach program, call the Delaware Helpline at 800-464-4357, or visit www.eitcdelaware.net for a schedule of times and locations.

