



*Community Action Partnership*  
**Helping People - Changing Lives**  
*In Riverside County*

**Did You Know?**

- 1 in 5 eligible Californians fail to claim \$1.2 billion in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds each year.
- Riverside County is 1 of California's top 10 counties that missed out on the largest amounts of EITC refunds.
- \$76.6 million EITC dollars went unclaimed in Riverside County last year which is a \$80.8 million loss in sales which would have supported 478 local jobs.

**EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-to-moderate income working individuals and families**, approved by Congress in 1975. When EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit.

- In 2011, 2,800 returns were electronically filed at 12 sites throughout Riverside County.
- \$4,059,314 in tax dollars were refunded to low-income residents, an increase of \$1.1 million (28%) over 2010.
- \$1,805,932 in EITCs were claimed for returns filed by CAP Riverside volunteers.
- CAP Riverside's 140 VITA volunteers donated 7,416 hours, valued at \$154,623 during the 2011 tax season.
- 40 Community Partners were involved with CAP Riverside's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**  
**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**



*Doris thought that her income was too low to bother with filing a tax return. She had been told by tax professionals that she didn't qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit and was not required to file a return. Although her income had not significantly increased, she decided to utilize the free tax preparation service offered by Community Action Partnership and was completely astonished with the result. Doris*

*discovered that not only was she eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit, but she was also eligible to receive the Child Tax Credit bringing her refund amount to more than \$2,000. Volunteers encouraged her to make an appointment and bring in two prior years' tax returns for review. Upon completion of the review, Doris discovered a windfall of nearly \$3,000 in unclaimed refunds. Volunteers assisted with filing amended tax returns to collect the refunds which Doris plans to deposit into her IDA savings account as she works to purchase her first home.*

CAP Riverside, through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, has assembled over 40 partners that, in 2011, allowed over 2,800 tax returns to be filed electronically. The VITA service is available at no cost to the tax filer. VITA engages the entire community. Volunteers come from all walks of life, including those who have increased their job skills by becoming an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified tax preparer, students who volunteer to get hands-on experience to supplement their classroom learning, seniors wishing to give back to the community, and Riverside County employees giving of their time on Fridays off and mandatory furlough days. Tax preparation sites include libraries, senior centers, churches, trade schools and community colleges. Other partners have made their locations available for special tax preparation events. This has exposed their services to people visiting their location for tax assistance. EITC participants are able to enroll in other CAP Riverside wealth building programs, including the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program and Project B.L.I.S.S. (Building Links Impacts Self-Sufficiency), giving a long range strategy for families to achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, Access to Assets is a program that trains welfare recipients to be professional tax preparers, allowing them to gain employment or start their own business.

