

## THE EARNED INCOME AND CHILD TAX CREDITS CAN HELP

There are more than 4.6 million children living in New York State and more than 925,000 of them are poor. That is almost one in every five children. The majority of these children live in working families. Currently in New York, a child is born into poverty every 10 minutes. The condition of these children in one of the richest states in the richest, most powerful democratic nation in the world is morally indefensible.

### The Earned Income and Child Tax Credits Can Help

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is America's most effective anti-poverty tool for families. In 2003, the EITC lifted 4.4 million individuals, including 2.4 million children, out of poverty. In that year, the average EITC refund in New York was more than \$2,300. Despite the benefits of the EITC, nearly 20 percent of eligible workers in New York do not claim the credit. These workers are missing out on thousands of dollars that can help them cover expenses like rent, utilities, groceries and child care.

The EITC is a refundable tax credit for people who work full- or part-time, but don't earn a lot of money. Workers who earned less than \$37,300 may be eligible to claim the EITC which can be worth nearly \$6,000 depending on how much the worker earned in 2005. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) can be worth up to an additional \$1,000 per child.

## FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Protecting and nurturing children is called for in the sacred texts, teaching and traditions of every religion. Faith requires of us prayer, faithful witness and action for justice. By connecting the families in your congregations to these tax credits and free tax preparation sites in their community, you can begin to lift many families out of poverty and help ensure that we *truly* Leave No Child Behind.



### WAYS THAT FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The faith community is a powerful vehicle for outreach and there are many simple ways to promote the EITC and CTC:

**Word of mouth** is the best way to let your congregation and community know about these valuable tax credits. Make sure all staff know about the credits and spread the word to community members, family and friends.

**Distribute information** at congregational events and activities like youth group and prayer meetings, bazaars, health fairs, community forums and any meeting or event you host or attend.

**Hang informational flyers and posters** in common areas such as fellowship halls, dining areas, classrooms, meeting rooms and other areas where your members will see them.

**Include information** about tax credits in bulletins, newsletters, websites, donation envelopes and congregational mailings.

**Display listings** of free tax-filing sites on community bulletin boards.

**Host an informational session** on tax credits for members of your congregation and the surrounding community.

**Organize a "Congregational Outreach Day"** in association with a free tax preparation site in your community.

**Don't forget about staff and volunteers**, many of them may be eligible for these credits.

## THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND - NEW YORK WILL ASSIST YOU

The Children's Defense Fund - New York (CDF-NY) works closely with members of the faith community to provide the training, materials and technical assistance necessary for a successful outreach campaign. Materials available include posters, fliers, palm cards, newsletter articles and a directory of free tax-filing sites.

### How to Find Out More

To start an outreach campaign or to learn more about tax credits, please contact Minerva Delgado at [mdelgado@cdfny.org](mailto:mdelgado@cdfny.org), or call (212) 697-2323.



**It's Your Money.  
You Earned It.  
Now Claim It!**

## THE MISSION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

To join the Movement to Leave No Child Behind, visit: [www.cdfny.org](http://www.cdfny.org) or call us at (212) 697-2323.



**Children's Defense Fund**

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 655  
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**"Speak up for [those unable to speak],  
for the rights of the unfortunate.  
Speak up, judge righteously,  
champion the poor and needy."  
(Proverbs 31:8-9)**



**The Earned Income  
& Child Tax Credits  
How Faith Communities Can Help**