

## HIDDEN TREASURE: Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)

Economic abuse is a tactic abusers use to control a relationship by preventing or blocking access to financial resources. **If your abusive partner files an income tax return before you do, your eligibility for a tax credit refund may be in jeopardy. File as soon as possible in 2012 to claim the tax refund that is due to you.**

### ONE CHILD

Did you have one child living with you? Did you earn less than \$36,052\*?

**You may qualify for an EITC up to \$3,094.**

### TWO CHILDREN

Did you have 2 children living with you? Did you earn less than \$40,964\*?

**You may qualify for an EITC up to \$5,112.**

### 3+ CHILDREN

Did you have 3 or more children living with you? Did you earn less than \$43,998\*?

**You may qualify for an EITC up to \$5,751.**

### NO CHILDREN

If you had no children living with you, did you earn less than \$13,660\* in 2011? Were you between the ages 25 and 64?

**You may qualify for an EITC up to \$464.**

## YOU MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR: Child Tax Credit (CTC) Refunds

Many families that earned more than \$3,000 may qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund — up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17.

## CAUTION: Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs)

Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) are loans with extremely high interest rates. If there is an error on the return and the IRS doesn't send the refund, you will be stuck having to repay the loan.

You may pay as much as \$80 or more for a processing fee. Sometimes RALs are advertised as "fast cash" or a "quick tax refunds."

## FREE TAX HELP:

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) helps people fill out returns for free.

Call 1-800-906-9887 or visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (keyword site list).

Resource- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

With information and support, you can gain confidence to work toward healthy, successful money management.

To learn about financial education classes, email Joan Sulzmann at [joan@acadv.org](mailto:joan@acadv.org).

Information in this newsletter adapted from the Allstate Financial Empowerment curriculum.

## EARNED INCOME INCLUDES:

- Wages, salaries and tips
- Net earnings from self-employment
- Union strike benefits
- Employer-paid disability benefits
- Military combat pay

**You have to file a Federal Tax Return to apply for the EITC and CTC.**

