Note From Our President

Last year, after expanding the Cal EITC, we set out to meet the need of reaching over 1 million newly-eligible low-income families. I’m so proud of our team, and our incredible partners, for accomplishing this and helping over 1.4 million families, and 3.8 million children in need claim the Cal EITC.

With your help, we were able to lead an aggressive outreach campaign in Los Angeles, the Inland Region, and throughout the state. We are very proud of our work this year, but with 1 in 4 children in California still living in poverty, we know there is much still to do.

We look forward to continuing working with you to make sure every working family in California is able to meet their basic needs.

Sincerely,

Josh Fryday

“Economic opportunity for women — getting hired for the good jobs, earning fair pay at those jobs and retaining that income to build a future — is critical to the prosperity of our state. I thank CalEITC4Me for convening this discussion and for their continued work toward a fairer tax system.”

— Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) at the 2018 Women’s Economic Empowerment Summit

CalEITC4Me Rounds out Record-Breaking Year

After piloting a new year-round EITC organizing model, CalEITC4Me is thrilled to announce incredible results — more than 1.4 million Californians claimed the Cal EITC in 2018. Over $342 million of CalEITC was put directly into the pockets of the low-income families we served on top of the overall $2 billion of federal EITC these families were able to earn.

As part of our year-round outreach, we:

- Reached over 1 million parents throughout the state with our back-to-school program
- Texted over 1.2 million low-income individuals in both English and Spanish
- Reached over 1.5 million individuals on Facebook
- Held over 200 events around the state
- Distributed over 1 million pieces of collateral material provided to our partners in multiple languages including English, Spanish, Mandarin, and for the first time in Vietnamese
We’re committed to tackling the persistent wage gap in California; women are increasingly the breadwinners yet earn a fraction of what their white male counterparts make -- and that needs to change.

California’s top political leaders joined us for our groundbreaking Women’s Economic Empowerment Summit, in partnership with JPMorgan Chase & Co. Nonprofit and philanthropic leaders gathered to discuss strategies to empower low-income women to get on the path to economic security. Our summit was even featured on Univision’s nightly newscast, the most-watched daily newscast in Southern California!

Featured speakers included: U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán (CA-44), California State Controller Betty T. Yee, Speaker of the California State Assembly Anthony Rendon, SEIU Executive Director Alma Hernandez, Wendy Greuel, and many others!

To read more about the 2018 Women’s Economic Empowerment Summit including speakers, photos, presentations, and resources distributed at the event, please visit CalEITC4me.org/LASummit2018.
Reaching Newly Eligible Populations

Last year, the Cal EITC expanded to the self-employed population of working Californians. Starting next year, young adult workers ages 18-24 and older adult workers ages 65 and over will be eligible for the Cal EITC for the first time. We will be running an aggressive campaign with a layered approach to reach these newly eligible populations. In 2019 CalEITC will be able to serve over 2 million low-income families, more than 700,000 from this past year.

Holistic Benefits Approach

At CalEITC4Me, we know that our mission to end poverty does not just revolve around tax season. In fact, we found that in coordinating outreach efforts with existing benefits that have helped millions of low-income Californians, we are able to reach more people and families in need of the right resources. That's why we have been looking forward to sharing our Holistic Benefits Approach!

If you are eligible for the Cal EITC, you are likely eligible for other benefits, as well - unfortunately, many of those additional benefits are underutilized. For example, in Los Angeles alone, nearly half of those eligible for CalFresh do not participate in it. That is an estimated 1,004,640 people, which equates to $2 billion in economic activity, according to the most recent study by California Food Policy Advocates.

We are aiming to change that. We have created new materials to help educate around all benefits. With our proven organizing model, we hope to reach low-income communities with these much needed resources to claim the public benefits that are available to them.
In order to help recipients ensure they are getting all of the benefits they’re eligible to receive and help on-the-ground practitioners as they work directly with clients, we’ve developed targeted resources including a checklist and resource wheel.

*Text “BENEFITS” to (760) 970-8396 to find out your estimated Cal EITC refund!

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**Contains additional text and resources.**

- **EITC**
  - The Cal EITC is the new CA Earned Income Tax Credit. Claiming the EITC Cal does not affect other benefits you can receive. For more information visit: CalEITC4Me.org

- **CALFRESH**
  - Monthly food benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to maintain adequate nutritional levels. benefitsca.org

- **CALWORKS**
  - Public assistance program that provides cash aid and services to eligible families that have a child(ren) in the home. benefitscal.org

- **GET CONNECTED!**
  - To learn more about low-cost internet prices and free/low-cost computers for families. Call 24/7 toll-free: (884) 841-INFO (4636) internetforallnow.org

- **WIC**
  - Provides nutrition education, issues checks for healthy supplemental foods, and makes referrals to healthcare and other community services. m.wic.ca.gov

- **MEDI-CAL**
  - California’s Medicaid program, providing free or low-cost health coverage for children and adults with limited income and resources. coveredca.com/medi-cal

- **HEAD START**
  - Program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. eckc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

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**Click here to visit www.CalEITC4Me.org/benefits for resources and additional information.**