

**Priority:** Basic Needs  
**Program Offer Type:** New Program  
**Related Programs:**

**Lead Agency:** Commission on  
**Program Contact:** Janet Hawkins

**Program Characteristics:** Joint Offer, One-Time-Only Request

**Executive Summary**

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) Outreach & Assistance program offers free tax preparation services to low-income parents of school-aged children and youth. The program also offer free financial literacy materials and schedules contacts with credit union and banking representatives.

**Program Description**

- Families living on a low-wage ("working poor") are often unaware of the four tax credit programs they are eligible for and the opportunity for free tax assistance. Offering the service at SUN school sites will be a direct service to families whose children attend the SUN school.
- The EIC Outreach & Assistance program offer is a one-year, new service, which is based on a successful pilot that was conducted at Portsmouth MS in 2005. Filing tax returns enables low-income families to qualify for both state and federal tax and childcare credit programs. Those who qualify for these programs will be able to maximize their potential yearly income and receive access to financial literacy services.
- Six SUN sites will offer this program to families that are "un-banked," meaning those who do not use traditional banking services like credit unions, community banks, etc. We will choose sites located in diverse neighborhoods in the county. SUN Coordinators will provide stipends for students and parents who offer services like translation or childcare. Sites will open at times convenient for parents, allowing for evening and/or weekend service delivery.
- CASH Oregon will provide and maintain needed computer hardware and software to create an infrastructure for site set-up and operation. CASH will also deliver the financial access and financial literacy information and services. These services will include counseling on asset building, credit recovery, and home ownership.

**Program Justification**

A recent Anne E. Casey Foundation publication states, "Over the past 28 years, the Earned Income Tax Credit has reduced the annual tax burden for low-income working families and has emerged as America's largest and most effective anti-poverty program." Key facts:

- The IRS reports that the average EIC for Multnomah County's low-income residents, who were eligible in Tax Year (TY) 2002, was \$1,496 per household.
- Oregonians have access to two tax credit programs, the federal EIC and Child Credit and state Child Care Credit and a credit for low-income working families (which will be refundable in 2006).
- Eligible families underutilize tax credits. An estimated 13,551 Multnomah County households missed out on these benefits in TY 2003.
- This program relates to the Poverty Elimination Framework -Building Economic Assets

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Families who receive free tax preparation services at SUN sites	0	0	0	350
Outcome	Participants whose yearly income is lifted above FPIG	0%	0%	0%	80%
Output	Participants at SUN tax sites that receive financial literacy info	0%	0%	0%	75%

**Performance Measure - Description**

- Six sites offering services for 4 hours/week for 9 weeks.
- Outcome information is based on an average refund of \$3,000 for a 4-person family whose yearly earned income is below the Federal Poverty Income Guideline (FPIG).
- Financial literacy information will be available and accessible at all sites.

**Legal/Contractual Obligation**

N/A

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$75,000</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

N/A

**Significant Program Changes****Last year this program was:**

This is a new program offer.