

TAX CREDIT OUTREACH

Community Referral to Improve Economic Mobility

Colorado State Library Partner Forum
December 7, 2023



INTRODUCTIONS

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POVERTY AND NEED IN COLORADO COMMUNITIES

- Pandemic tax credit increases have been rolled back
 - More than 5 million children were lifted out of poverty under expanded federal Child Tax Credit (CTC)
 - CTC decreased from \$3000-\$3600 to \$2000
 - Colorado state CTC fills some of the gap
- In January 2023, average CO household spent \$921 more due to inflation¹
- An estimated 1 in 4 children will get less than the full CTC or no credit due to families earning too little²



UNIFIED BENEFITS REFERRAL - COLORADO PEAK



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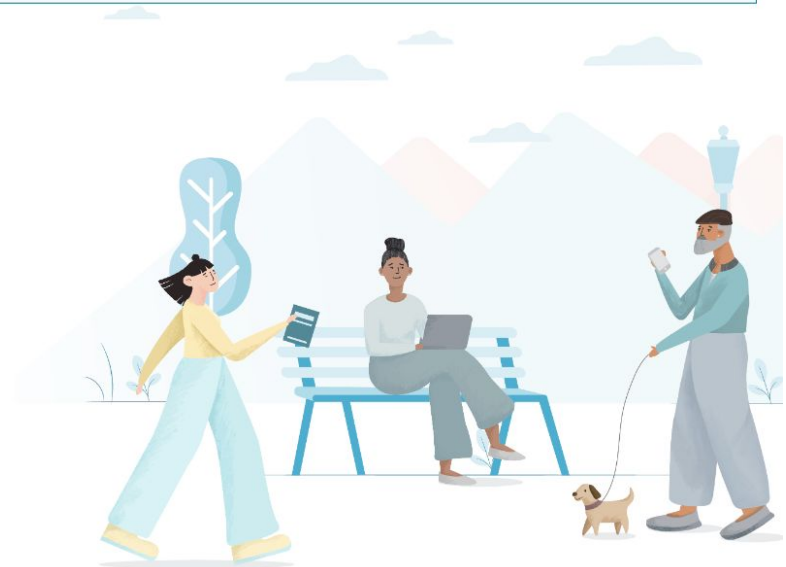
🔔 Is your Health First Colorado renewal past due?

Colorado PEAK is the place to apply for and manage benefits online

Use PEAK to apply for or manage your medical, SNAP, cash or other State of Colorado benefits.

[Apply for benefits](#)

[Create an account](#)



Find the right benefits for you!



TAX CREDITS AND TAX REBATES

What are tax credits?

- Tax credits are decreases in tax owed if eligible
- When the taxes are **refundable** we get that money back in a refund payment
- Payment can come in check or direct deposit

What are tax rebates?

- Tax rebates are refunds in taxes paid
- Colorado Cash Back program was a rebate
- PTC rebate





WHY DO TAX CREDITS MATTER?

Refundable tax credits increase financial well-being and improve outcomes including:

- Reduced infant mortality and low birth weight
- Reduced child maltreatment
- Increased intergenerational health
- Improved outcomes across the lifecourse, and generations
- Improved educational and earnings outcomes



IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO FAMILIES

2021's Child Tax Credit payments significantly reduced poverty and hunger.

- 24% decline in food insufficiency
- Financial anxiety reduced for 56% of families
- 3 million children lifted out of poverty

How did families spend their credit?

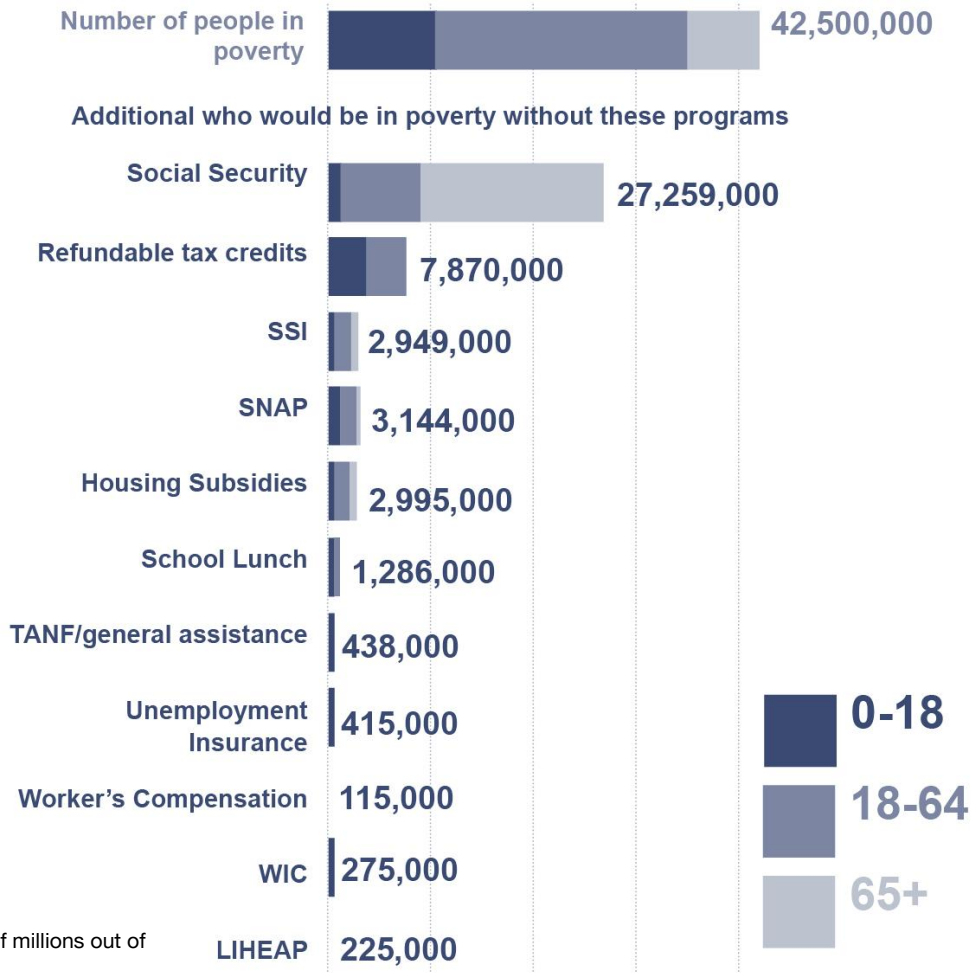
- Food
- Child care
- School-related expenses



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THE POWER OF REFUNDABLE CREDITS

- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): worth up to **\$7,430** in tax year 2023.
- Child Tax Credit (CTC): **\$2,000** per child (up to \$1,600 refundable). Families with very low incomes do not receive maximum cash benefit.
- CO Early Childhood Educator Credit: up to **\$1,620** refundable
- State EITC and CTC adds even more.



Source: Economic Policy Institute, "Government programs kept tens of millions out of poverty in 2018."

2023 TABOR SALES TAX REBATE

- For one year only, TABOR state sales tax refunds claimed on income tax returns, or PTC applications, will provide an equal refund of \$800 for all qualifying individuals or \$1600 for joint filers
- Filing Deadlines
 - April 15, 2024 if there is NO Colorado income tax liability
 - October 15, 2024 if there IS Colorado income tax liability
- There is no direct payment option for taxpayers like there was for the Colorado Cash Back program



WHO IS MISSING OUT?

One in four eligible Coloradans does not claim their EITC

- Very low-income families
- New parents
- Grandparent caregivers
- Newcomers - immigrant and refugee populations
- Non-English speaking communities
- Families in rural areas





COMMON CONCERNS

- Tax credits not counted as income
- Minimal earnings required
- No impact on SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, or housing benefits
- Mixed documentation families eligible
- Can use tax ID (ITIN) for filing
- Only children need SSN for CTC



PARTNER TOOLKIT

[File Your Taxes](#)[Post Tax Season Hub](#)[Learn](#)[FAQs](#)[Get Help](#)[Impact](#)[Get Involved](#)[Tax Tips](#)[EN ESPAÑOL](#)

YOU CAN HELP REDUCE POVERTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

There are many ways you can get involved and help connect your community to free tax resources. Whether it's becoming a volunteer or helping us reach communities across the state, we are grateful for your support and partnership. **Access free campaign resources, including fliers, social media content, and email messages, or learn how to become a volunteer below.**



BILINGUAL CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR 2023!

[ACCESS TOOLKIT](#)

Access free campaign resources to reach people and families in your community.

Toolkit includes:

- Social media content (English and Spanish)
- Newsletter messages (English and Spanish)
- Email messages (English and Spanish)
- Logos (English and Spanish)
- Flyers (English and Spanish; versions with and without QR codes)
- Posters (English and Spanish; versions with and without QR codes)
- Tax document checklist (Arabic, Dari, English, French, Karen, Nepali, Pashto, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese). You can also access [this list online here](#).
- [Multilingual Videos](#) for immigrant and refugee communities



BILINGUAL PARTNER TOOLKIT




SCAN HERE



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PRINT + DIGITAL RESOURCES






HERE TO HELP YOU GET AHEAD

Whether it's tax credits, free tax filing services, or free in-person tax help, Get Ahead Colorado is here to help you get the most out of your taxes.

- Get the Child Tax Credit or the Earned Income Tax Credit to put extra money back in your pocket.
- Find free, in-person tax help in your area.
- File your tax return online or on your smartphone for free.

Get started at www.GetAheadColorado.org





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LEARN HOW TO GET THE CHILD TAX CREDIT



LEARN HOW TO GET THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

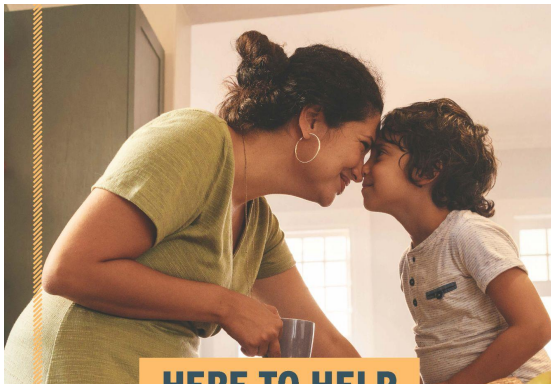


WANT TO TALK TAXES?

CALL 2-1-1!



FLYER FOR LIBRARY DISTRIBUTION



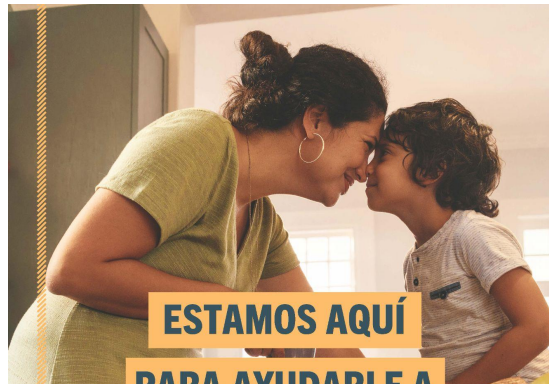
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ESTAMOS AQUÍ

PARA AYUDARLE A

SALIR ADELANTE

Estamos aquí para ayudarle a sacar el máximo provecho de sus impuestos, ya sea mediante créditos tributarios que le permiten conservar más dinero en el bolsillo, servicios en línea gratuitos de preparación de impuestos o ayuda gratuita en persona para la preparación de impuestos.

- Obtenga el crédito tributario por hijos o el crédito por ingreso del trabajo para poner dinero extra en su bolsillo.
- Encuentre ayuda gratuita en persona para la preparación de impuestos en su área.
- Presente gratis su declaración de impuestos en línea o usando su smartphone.

Comience en www.HaciaAdelanteColorado.org



PROMOTING TAX CREDITS FOR FAMILY FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Many members of your community may be eligible for tax credits and rebates that could mean thousands of extra dollars in their pockets, as well as improved health and educational outcomes.

Why?

Low to middle-income Colorado families can receive thousands of dollars in tax credits such as the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC), the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Colorado state tax credits. All it takes is filing a simple tax return.

To learn more and access free resources through our digital toolkit, please visit:

www.GetAheadColorado.org OR
www.HaciaAdelanteColorado.org

Thank you for helping Coloradans
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How You Can Help People File Their Taxes and Get Tax Credits

- **Post** and/or distribute flyers about tax credits and free tax filing assistance
- **Add** a tax filing widget to your website
- **Share** information on opportunities for members of your community to become IRS-certified tax volunteers
- **Designate** one or more computer stations for “Do It Yourself” tax filing. Free tax filing software can be provided to you.
- **Provide** space for IRS-certified volunteers to assist community members with free tax filing events
- **Include** tax information in your referrals and programming all through tax season (no tax background needed)
- **Apply** for your organization to become an IRS-certified tax preparation site

STRATEGIES FOR LIBRARIES



LOW LIFT STRATEGIES

How to get started:

- Hang flyers
- Provide informational resources and internet access
- Dedicate space for tax filing during tax season

[Get Ahead Colorado](#) has promotional materials available to you under “Get Involved” on the website



MODERATE LIFT STRATEGIES

How can I do a bit more?

- Refer patrons to Get Ahead Colorado or Tax Help Colorado website for filing resources and do it yourself tax filing
- Assist patrons with locating free tax filing resources
 - Where is the closest VITA site? Use locator or list on website
 - Walk-in or by appointment
- Help recruit volunteers for tax preparation at VITA sites



FREE TAX FILING RESOURCES

MyFreeTaxes.com

- DIY or virtual help
- No income limit if choosing DIY option, \$79,000 for assisted
- Cannot file previous years
- IRS-trained virtual help on standby

GetYourRefund.org

- Remote tax preparation
- Income limit of \$66,000
- Taxpayers are matched with a tax professional who completes their return
- Filing a return takes approximately 2-3 weeks



TAXHELPCO.ORG

GET FREE TAX HELP

Let us help you keep your entire tax refund in your pocket where it belongs. Below are three steps to getting free tax help.

[Home](#) » Get Free Tax Help



See If You Qualify

Determine if you qualify for our services

GET STARTED



Prepare for Your Visit

Learn about our services and what to bring

GET PREPARED



Find a Tax Site

Choose from over 20 free tax sites statewide

FIND A SITE



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HIGHEST LIFT STRATEGIES

High effort and high impact:

- Offer supported self-filing at limited times during tax season
- Collaborate with a community organization to open a site
- Offer language support
- Consider extending library hours during tax season



QUICK LINKS

Get Ahead Colorado Website: www.GetAheadColorado.org

Hacia Adelante Colorado Website: www.HaciaAdelanteColorado.org

Bilingual Partner Toolkit: www.GetAheadColorado.org/2023-partner-toolkit

My Free Taxes: <https://myfreetaxes.com> or <https://myfreetaxes.com/es>

Get Your Refund: <https://www.getyourrefund.org/en> or
<https://www.getyourrefund.org/es>

VITA/TCE Site Locator: https://www.getyourrefund.org/en/vita_providers

AARP Tax Aide: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html

Tax Help Colorado: <https://taxhelpco.org>

Colorado 2-1-1: <https://www.211colorado.org>

Taxpayer Advocate Service: <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov>

Colorado Department of Revenue: <https://tax.colorado.gov/individuals>





THANK YOU!

Have questions?

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Q&A

THANK YOU

