



NEWS

Community Action Project • 4606 S. Garnett Road, Suite 100 • Tulsa, OK 74146
Contact: Linda Brock, Communications Specialist • 918.858.0990 • Cell 918.625.5398

lbrock@captc.org • www.captc.org

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Press Conference to Kick-Off CAP's Free Tax Preparation Program

Who: Mayor Dewey Bartlett, City of Tulsa; Mark Graham, CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way; Steven Dow, CAP's Executive Director; team leaders from AmeriCorps volunteers

What: A press conference kicking off CAP's free tax preparation program

When: 10:00 a.m., Friday, Jan. 28 (*National EITC Awareness Day*)

Where: CAP's Exchange Center East tax site, 4606 S. Garnett Road, Suite 100

About CAP's Free Tax Preparation Program:

Each year during tax season, Community Action Project (CAP) provides free tax preparation assistance to Tulsa families and individuals who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). To be eligible for the program, families must have earned less than \$50,000 and individuals less than \$40,000. Anyone laid off from their job in 2010 is also eligible, regardless of income.

The goal of CAP's tax program is to decrease poverty and to expand economic independence in Tulsa by increasing the participation rate and use of the EITC by eligible low- and moderate-income working people.

The EITC credit is worth up to \$5,665 to families with three or more children this year. Due to the state of the economy, CAP anticipates its 2011 tax season will be the largest to date. To help meet the demand, 22 AmeriCorps members are stationed with CAP to assist with tax preparation.

This year, CAP tax clients will have an opportunity at additional tax savings. CAP, with support from the Tulsa Community Foundation, is offering the SaveUSA program at three select sites. Interested participants will be selected at random to receive a 50 percent match if they deposit at least \$200 of their tax refund into a SaveUSA Account and maintain the initial deposit for one year. Maximum match is \$500. Residents are encouraged to file early as this program is only available while funds last.

SaveUSA is the first large-scale study of matched, tax-time savings to use a random assignment evaluation design, widely accepted as the "gold standard" method. As part of the study, tax filers will be randomly assigned to be part of either a SaveUSA group (eligible for SaveUSA accounts) or a regular tax filers group (not eligible for the accounts). A comparison of the two groups over time will indicate whether, and to what extent, SaveUSA produces changes in people's total assets, debt, and overall financial well-being.

Tulsa was selected as one of four cities to offer this program. Other cities include New York City, Newark and San Antonio.

(more)

CAP's EITC program is one of the largest of its kind in the country and is a model that has been replicated in more than 75 cities throughout the U.S. Last year, CAP's program culminated in a record-breaking season by serving 17, 495 clients and returning nearly \$36 million to the Tulsa community.

CAP is operating eight tax sites this year:

- Pine and Lewis, 1604 N. Lewis, Springdale Shopping Center at Bank of Oklahoma (*SaveUSA offered*)
- Tulsa Educare, 2511 E. 5th Pl. (next to Kendall Whittier Elementary School)
- Exchange Center, 4606 S. Garnett Rd, Suite 100 (*SaveUSA offered*)
- McClure Early Childhood Education Center, 6150 S. Yorktown Ave. (*SaveUSA offered*)
- Eastgate Metroplex, 14002 E. 21st St. (*Bilingual and ITIN Site*)
- Sand Springs Early Childhood Education Center, 81st W. Ave & Keystone Expressway
- Eugene Field Early Childhood Center, 1120 W. 22nd St
- Langston University, 914 N. Greenwood St.

To make an appointment, call (918) 382-3333. For more information on our program, call (918) 382-3200, or visit captc.org.

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Community Action Project (CAP) of Tulsa County is the largest anti-poverty nonprofit in Oklahoma and a nationally recognized provider of research-based, high quality early childhood programs for low-income children from birth through age 5. CAP combines early childhood education of the highest caliber with innovative family financial and health services and targeted community improvement efforts, with a strategic vision to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving the prospects of long-term economic success for very young, low-income children, their families, and the communities in which they live.