



Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network

Sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families

Peer Technical Assistance (TA) Short Summary

Requesting Agency:	Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho
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TA Event Tracking #:	145
TA Requested:	The Community Action Partnerships Association requested the assistance of the Welfare Peer TA Network to plan and conduct a two day statewide Roundtable on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)/Child Tax Credit (CTC) and strategies to help increase current and former TANF client(s) and low-income households participation in the programs.
TA Goal:	The principal goals of the Roundtable were to build and enhance partnerships statewide between social services providers, Idaho TANF Agency, business leaders, faith-based organizations, etc., with an aim toward helping low wage earning families achieve financial self-sufficiency.
TA Format:	Roundtable
Sample Evaluations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “This training was exciting as we can be a big part of bringing money back into Idaho. Presenters were great.”• “I gained a better understanding of what EITC is and how to incorporate it into my daily work assignments.”

Analysis:

As a Federally-funded anti-poverty initiative, the primary purpose of the EITC is to help employed low-wage earners maintain their financial self-sufficiency by offsetting taxes, supplementing wages, and making work more attractive than welfare. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has been instrumental in closing the poverty gap for many of the nation’s working poor. Enacted by Congress in 1975, the Federal EITC is a refundable tax credit that increases the income of low- and moderate-income working families by providing tax reductions and cash supplements.

The Roundtable event in Idaho was attended by Federal agency staff, representatives from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and Idaho community action agencies, and local representatives from the various service regions throughout the State, including Partners for Prosperity, United Way, 2-1-1 Care Line, Easter Seals, Salvation Army, Chambers of Commerce, local utilities, state agencies, school districts, and University Extension Services. Overall, the Roundtable was designed to share organizational outreach methods and strategies; strengthen opportunities for collaboration

between service providers, state agencies, and national partners; expand employer knowledge and support of the EITC/CTC as services that will benefit their workers and increase employee job retention; increase the availability of free income tax filing services for low-wage earners; expand the availability of financial literacy services for the target community; and build knowledge and understanding on how the EITC through outreach to current and former TANF clients and low-income families can grow and expand local and State economies.

The Roundtable included comprehensive information sharing related to the EITC. Roundtable participants were offered numerous presentations detailing the purpose of, and eligibility for, the EITC, unclaimed benefit totals from FY 2004, why TANF recipients are a good target audience for an EITC initiative, and examples of EITC Initiatives from other localities. Additionally, Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) staff presented on the various aspects of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, the IRS rural outreach initiative, and other helpful resources available from the IRS such as TaxWise software. In addition, a representative from Corporate Voices offered a presentation on engaging employers in EITC initiatives, and participants were also provided with information from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on the Money Smart curriculum and other financial literacy resources. Also included were presentations by a local representative on the Assets for Independence program in Idaho operated by the United Way of Treasure Valley and target outreach methods from Partners for Prosperity.

Additionally, networking sessions also afforded participants the opportunity to leverage the Roundtable as a catalyst for a coordinated Statewide EITC effort among stakeholders across the State of Idaho.

Overall, participants, speakers, and facilitators agreed that the Roundtable was a successful event that will help build the statewide and local capacity for Idaho to organize local initiatives, access resources, and develop collaborative partnerships related to the EITC to support working families.

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