

The Midcoast Maine Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CA\$H) Coalition offers free tax preparation services to working individuals and families in the Midcoast area whose household income is \$50,000 or below. Tax preparation sessions are staffed by IRS-certified volunteers.

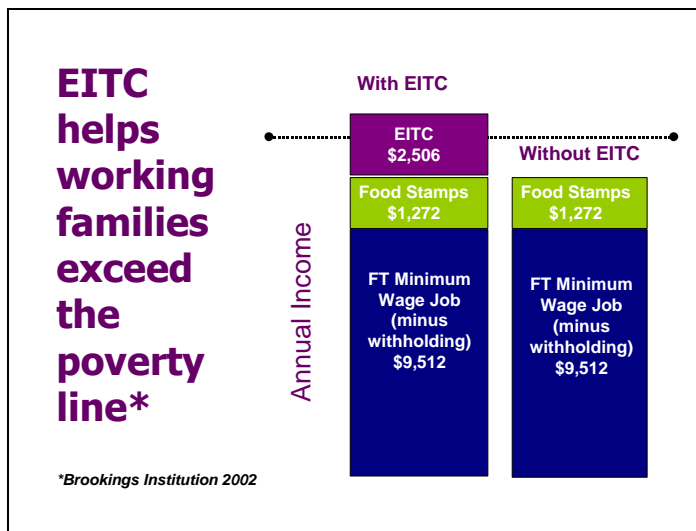
The coalition was formed in the fall of 2006 in an attempt to educate the public about the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is America's largest anti-poverty program. This benefit is intended to reduce the tax burden on those workers and supplement wages.

Numbers served and impact:

- About 700 individuals and families have received free tax preparation services since 2007, and volunteers have helped return refunds of more than \$650,000 back to the local economy.
- During the 2009 tax season, Midcoast Maine CA\$H volunteers helped 335 taxpayers file federal and state income taxes, returning \$305,865 back to the local economy.

According to Gary Dunlap, Tax Consultant with the Internal Revenue Service

- The Midcoast CA\$H coalition helped save taxpayers in 2009 more than \$38,000 in tax preparation fees (the average amount spent on paid tax preparation is \$115).
- The average EITC refund is about \$2,500 per EITC recipient.



Testimonials:

- “Thank you very much your time and assistance. It’s a really wonderful service and is helping my wife and I this year, since we are raising two children on mostly one income...” — Ron F.
- “I wanted to personally thank you for helping me with my tax return.... What a huge relief! I feel so lucky ... to benefit from such a wonderful service.” — Sharon R.

Partnerships:

- Border Trust; Bowdoin College; Casey Family Services; Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Maine; Downeast Energy & Building Supply; Goodwill Industries; Internal Revenue Service; Key Bank; Midcoast Maine Community Action; United Way of Mid Coast Maine; U.S. Department of HUD; University College at Bath/Brunswick; Volunteers of America; and Women, Work & Community.

Site locations — Free tax preparation services are offered from Jan. 23-March 30 at the following locations:

- TOPSHAM – Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Westrum House
- BATH – Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the University College at Bath/Brunswick
- BRUNSWICK – Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. at the McClellan Building

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