

# EITC COALITION

*Give credit where credit is due*

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## *Why Supporting the EITC is the first Step to Ending Poverty in CO*

### **The Issue**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a way to help low-income working families become self-sufficient. Simply put, the EITC is a tax refund that federal and state governments provide to working families that are struggling to make ends meet. Nearly 250,000 people in Colorado lack enough money to cover living expenses, such as housing and food; **this is where the EITC can help!**

### **The Solution**

The EITC provides cash to families that can help pay for important things like rent, healthcare bills, meals, or car repairs. Sadly, many families that qualify for the EITC often are not aware of their eligibility.

In Colorado, the EITC is set at 10 percent of the federal credit, and is only available in years when there is a TABOR surplus. In other words, it is not a permanent part of our state tax laws. **The state government has the power to make the EITC permanent and we are encouraging them to restore it to 10% of the federal credit.** At this level, those who qualify for the state EITC can receive up to \$450 annually.

### **The Impact**

**Families can spend more time raising their children.** Money from the EITC can help lift family incomes, helping to pay for necessary expenses, such as food, clothing, healthcare or transportation costs. This will allow parents to spend less time worrying about money and more time invested in their families.

**There will be more money going into the Colorado economy.** Money received from the EITC will allow working families to put money back into their own communities. Consequently, small business and local economies also benefit from this credit.

**The state government will make the first step to end poverty.** By supporting the EITC, legislators will change the course of politics in Colorado to serve the common good. A vote for making the EITC permanent at 10% of the federal credit shows that legislators choose to support hardworking people and families over moneyed-interests.

### **The Action**

Please urge your State Representative and/or Senator to restore the **EITC to 10% of the federal level and make it a permanent part of Colorado tax law.** For more information on the EITC and how you can become involved in the fight to support working families, please contact us at [eitccoalition@gmail.com](mailto:eitccoalition@gmail.com).

# **SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition  
The Alliance of Professional Women  
The Bell Policy Center  
Capitol Hill United Ministries  
Center for Policy Entrepreneurship  
Colorado ACORN  
Colorado Black Women for Political Action  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Colorado Coalition for Girls  
Colorado Center for Law & Policy  
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Colorado Progressive Action  
Colorado Progressive Coalition  
Colorado Society for Clinical Social Workers  
Colorado Women's Agenda  
CPC Pueblo  
Cross Community Coalition  
CWEE Center for Work Education and Employment  
Colorado Women's Agenda  
Denver Asset Building Coalition ( DABC)  
Denver Urban Ministries  
Denver Women's Commission  
Energy Outreach Colorado  
Gary-Williams Energy Corp  
Hunger for Justice: Interfaith Voices Against Poverty  
Latina Initiative  
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry -- CO  
Metro CareRing  
National Association of Social Workers—Colorado Chapter  
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women  
Project Self-Sufficiency- (Larimer County)  
Project WISE  
Rural Community Resource Center  
Rocky Mountain SER Denver Head Start  
Women and Family Action Network (Women's FAN)  
Women's Foundation of Colorado  
Women's Lobby of Colorado