



Fact Sheet for TAX HELP New Mexico Press Conference, Friday, Jan. 5, 2007

- Every year working New Mexicans leave behind hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed tax credits and refunds.
- These credits and refunds are available to low-income working parents whether they owe income taxes or not.
- New Mexico's working families received more than \$370 million from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 2005.
- According to the IRS, last year some 30,000 New Mexicans who were eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) *failed to claim it*. With the credit being worth up to \$4,536, New Mexicans left between \$76 million and \$136 million for the IRS to keep.
- New Mexico leads the nation in the number of parents who *did not* claim their rightful Child Tax Credits. The Child Tax Credit is worth up to \$1,000 per child – and the total amount that New Mexicans walked away from in 2004 was in the neighborhood of \$3 million.
- The state of New Mexico also offers tax breaks for low-income families, such as the Child Day Care Credit and the Low Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR).
- Tax credits and rebates are designed to lift the tax burden for low-income families because they spend a greater proportion of their salaries on gross receipts and other out-of-pocket taxes.
- TAX HELP New Mexico will begin opening offices statewide on Jan. 22, 2007 and will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing for New Mexicans whose annual household income is less than \$39,000 or who are 65 or older.
- Last year those who used the free service received, on average, a \$1,600 refund on both state and federal returns – for a total of \$21 million. This year, TAX HELP NM hopes to double its workload and net more than \$42 million in refunds for New Mexico residents.
- TAX HELP NM is a program of Central New Mexico Community College (CNM). Information is available online at <http://www.cnm.edu/taxhelp/>

Press Conference Speakers:

Lt. Governor Diane Denish

CNM President Michael J. Glennon

Angelica Regino, Community Health Partnership (speaks Spanish)

Experts on Hand for Interviews:

Diana Matier, TAX HELP NM (speaks Spanish)

Robin Brule, TAX HELP NM