



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**MAYOR NEWSOM AND TREASURER JOSÉ CISNEROS URGE
RESIDENTS TO FILE FOR THE WORKING FAMILIES CREDIT BY
APRIL 15**

Qualifying Working Families Credit recipients can receive up to \$5,600 cash back from the federal government

San Francisco, CA— Mayor Gavin Newsom and Treasurer José Cisneros today urged San Francisco residents to apply to the Working Families Credit (WFC) program. This year's WFC program incentivizes the use of mainstream banking behaviors by offering \$125 to eligible families that select direct deposit of their Working Families Credit to a checking or savings account. Conversely, eligible applicants who request paper checks will receive \$50 from the City.

The WFC program also raises awareness of the other funds and benefits for San Francisco working families. This includes a Federal tax credit of up to \$5,657 for working families under the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit Program (EITC).

“In this recession, it’s more important than ever to make sure our families are receiving every benefit to which they are entitled,” said Mayor Newsom. “The Working Families Credit will help San Francisco families make ends meet today, while saving for the future. This program is a giant step toward making the city more affordable for working families.”

“We want to make it clear that even if a family isn’t required to file a tax return, they should consider doing so because of the cash back they can receive from the federal government,” said Treasurer José Cisneros.

To be eligible for the Working Families Credit, a family must:

- Have earned less than \$48,300 in 2009
- Have filed a tax return by April 15th
- Claim the Earned Income Tax Credit on a federal income tax return
- Claim at least one qualifying dependent child on a federal income tax return
- Live in San Francisco

The WFC program was designed as an incentive for tax filers to claim the EITC, a refundable credit often touted as our country’s most effective anti-poverty program. EITC dollars claimed by San Francisco households rose by 6% last year, totaling \$59.8 million, of which \$18.8 million were claimed by the approximately 7,045 WFC recipients. In the first 5 years of the WFC Program, approximately 51,100 local credits have been disbursed to approximately 24,000 unique families.

Administered by the City & County of San Francisco’s Human Services Agency since 2006, the WFC Program is accepting applications for the current tax season through **April 15th, 2010**. Credits will be disbursed to all eligible applicants by the end of October 2010.



Applications are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Russian, and can be picked up at San Francisco free tax preparation sites, public libraries, H&R Block offices, various family & youth-focused non-profits across the city, and can be downloaded from the WFC website at www.workingfamiliescredit.org. This year is the second year the WFC application is also available through Intuit's Turbo Tax software. This new partnership yielded more than a quarter of all eligible WFC applicants last year. (Visit <http://turbotax.intuit.com/>)

Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to either the Human Services Agency (WFC drop box at reception desk on first floor, 170 Otis Street at Duboce St & Mission St) or any free tax preparation site in San Francisco. Completed applications should be mailed to:

City & County of San Francisco – HSA
WFC Program
PO Box 7988
San Francisco, CA 94120

Free tax preparation is available for any household that earned less than \$52,000 in 2009. For an appointment at one of HSA's four free tax sites, operated in partnership with local non-profit Mission Economic Development Agency, call 415-557-5510. For free tax preparation, including assistance with claiming both the local WFC and the Federal EITC, call United Way's 211 or 1-800-358-8832 for more information about specific locations providing free tax preparation as part of the United Way Bay Area's Earn It! Keep It! Save It! coalition.

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