



**RealSense**  
A United Way Initiative  
WWW.REALSENSEJAX.ORG • 904-632-0600

## ***RealSense Prosperity Campaign & Earned Income Tax Credit Fast Facts***

**What is the RealSense Prosperity Campaign:** Founded in 2003, RealSense is a locally based coalition of agencies, nonprofits, and businesses working in partnership to improve the financial outlook for Northeast Florida citizens.

**Who makes up the RealSense Team:** More than 60 organizations from all sectors of the community and a superlative group of several hundred trained volunteers.

**What does RealSense do?** RealSense provides information about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), free income tax preparation for those who qualify money-management and credit restoration education, and information about matched savings accounts (Individual Development Account or IDA) that encourage setting and attaining long-term goals.

**Target Audience – Earned Income Tax Credit:** RealSense hopes to reach single individuals and families with one or more children whose total household income is \$49,000 or less and people 60-years-old and older who are still working.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit**

Created in 1975, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable credit for people who work, but don't earn high incomes. EITC is a valuable tool, helping eligible tax payers lower their taxes or receive refunds. EITC helps offset Social Security taxes and provides an incentive for work. It is the federal government's largest benefit program for working individuals and families. RealSense and its partners want all eligible taxpayers to receive the money they have worked for and deserve.

Nearly 3,200 local tax payers, who filed their 2008 tax return with RealSense, received EITC totaling more than \$4.5 million as a whole.

In spite of an extensive EITC awareness campaign nationwide, the IRS estimates that 20% more tax payers may be eligible, but may not be aware of and claim their EITC. This includes people with limited English proficiency, rural residents, Native Americans, people with disabilities and non-traditional families, such as a grandparent raising a grandchild.

**To qualify in 2009,** taxpayers must not have investment income exceeding \$2,900 and must have earned income and adjusted gross incomes (AGI) under:

- \$13,440 (\$18,440 if married filing joint) if you do not have a qualifying child
- \$35,463 (\$40,463 married filing jointly) if you have one qualifying child
- \$40,295 (\$45,295 married filing jointly) if you have two qualifying children
- \$43,279 (\$48,279 married filing jointly) if you have three or more qualifying children

#### **Maximum EITC for 2009:**

- \$5,657 (with three or more qualifying children)
- \$5,028 (with two qualifying children)
- \$3,043 (with one qualifying child)
- \$457 (with no qualifying children)