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## **FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

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### **WORKERS MAY QUALIFY FOR SUBSTANTIAL FEDERAL TAX CREDIT**

EDISON—With this year’s tax season beginning January 23, Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) says it is extremely important that workers are aware of and understand the benefits of the special tax credit known as the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC.

“This tax benefit for working people can put up to \$6,935 back into a household budget,” according to Marcia E. Suarez, director of LSNJ’s Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. “It is important that workers who qualify for the EITC have all the information they need to get the full credit and get it right. Errors on a tax return can be a costly mistake, and will delay getting your refunds.”

The amount of EITC varies by income, family size and filing status. On average, EITC adds \$2,043 to a refund.

It is especially important for people whose income from work is less than the amount required to file a tax return to know that the EITC is a fully refundable credit. That means if the credit is more than the tax owed by the taxpayer(s), they will receive a refund for the difference. However, to claim the EITC, you must file a tax return, even if you have no tax to pay.

Workers have earned it, now file, claim it, and get it, advises Suarez.

Except for some who receive certain disability income, EITC recipients must have worked for someone, or run their own business or farm, and made less than \$59,187.

For help with the EITC or other federal tax issues, you can reach Legal Services of New Jersey’s Low Income Tax Clinic through the LSNJLAW Hotline at [www.lsnjlawhotline.org](http://www.lsnjlawhotline.org), or 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529).

Assistance in qualifying for the EITC also is available by visiting [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc).

There is an additional benefit for those who make less than \$60,000. They qualify for free tax return preparation at volunteer sites with IRS-certified volunteers preparing the tax return and checking for the EITC and other refundable credits. For nearby locations of these sites go to <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/find-a-location-for-free-tax-prep> or visit the IRS.gov website and type “VITA” in the search field.

*Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state’s Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations, and provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.*

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