

STRYVE ACTION COUNCIL

STRIVING TO REDUCE YOUTH VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

Increasing Financial Security and Preventing Violence

CDC's Division of Violence Prevention released [A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors](#), a collection of strategies based on the best available evidence for what works to prevent or reduce youth violence.

WHAT IS THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one way to reduce exposure to risks of youth violence. Strengthening household financial security through tax credits, such as the EITC, increases families' income, which may allow parents to create home environments that promote healthy development. For example, families can use EITC to access higher quality childcare and other resources to help put children on a path toward academic achievement and future financial stability.

POLICIES INTO PRACTICE: CALIFORNIA

In 2015, California joined 24 other states and the District of Columbia to offer a state EITC in addition to the Federal EITC. Three million California tax filers claimed the Federal EITC in the 2015 tax year (with an average credit of \$2,400), and nearly 400,000 working Californians claimed the state EITC (with an average credit of over \$500). **The \$7.6 billion Federal EITC dollars claimed in California in 2015 generated a total economic impact of \$9.6 billion in business sales, supported more than 62,000 jobs, and created more than \$3.3 billion in labor income.**

Yet, the EITC is still underutilized. Every year in California, as much as \$2 billion of Federal and state EITCs remain unclaimed, affecting not only families but also local economies where dollars resulting from the EITCs would have been spent.

LOCAL IMPACT: ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

To help more families access both Federal and state EITCs, California's Department of Community Services and Development convened over 30 state and local government agencies, as well as statewide community, faith, civic, education, workforce, business, and media leaders to collaborate on a State Interagency Team to ensure eligible Californians claim the EITC.

Throughout 2016, the State Interagency team coordinated EITC activities with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers across California. They focused outreach to specific zip codes with high rates of eligibility and low rates of EITC use, created an [EITC awareness social media campaign](#), and helped those claiming the EITC access banking services and financial literacy education. The team also focused on displaying posters in public areas such as medical, county, and local DMV offices.

The EITC can boost local economies, increase financial stability, improve living conditions, and help to reduce exposure to community-level risks for youth violence.

For more on the **STRYVE Action Council** visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/actioncouncil.html> and <https://www.safestates.org/page/STRYVEAC>

The production of this fact sheet was supported by cooperative agreement number CE13-1307 from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the Safe States Alliance and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.