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January 12, 2009

TO: International Vice Presidents, Council Directors/Presidents,  
Presidents/Directors of Large Unaffiliated Local Unions, Regional  
Directors, Area Organizing Directors, and Area Field Services Directors

FROM: Kerry Korpi *KK*  
Director  
Department of Research and Collective Bargaining Services

RE: Earned Income Credit (EIC) and other tax filings to put  
money in members' pockets

I am writing to encourage you to spread the word about the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) which may benefit your membership, low-wage workers we are organizing and other workers in your community. We have available for AFSCME affiliates EIC/CTC packages prepared by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities with brochures, fact sheets, outreach flyers and posters in English and Spanish. Many of these materials, including an EIC calculator, also are available on the Center's website at: [www.cbpp.org/eic2009](http://www.cbpp.org/eic2009). The kits also have a brief description of how to claim the recovery rebate for those who did not file for it this year, and information on the exclusion of forgiven mortgage debt from income.

The Earned Income Credit is a tax credit that supplements the earnings of people who work but don't earn high incomes. It benefits working families with children as well as low-income workers without children. Last year, 23.1 million workers claimed the EIC worth \$44.6 billion.

Many also received a substantial boost from the Child Tax Credit, a federal tax benefit for each dependent child up to \$1,000. Even families that earned too little to owe income tax can get the credit in the form of a refund check from the IRS. This credit is in addition to any EIC for which they may qualify. Most low-income working families will qualify for both credits. Families are eligible for the credit if they earned at least \$8,500 in 2008, down from the previous threshold of \$12,050.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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