

Free tax filing available

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Feb. 17, 2011 - April 18, the 2010 federal income tax filing deadline, is just around the corner. For Texans trying to wade through their federal income tax return, it can often be challenging. Fortunately, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) stand ready to assist taxpayers with information on preparations services.

A new service offered this year is Free File, a free, federal income tax preparation and electronic filing program for eligible taxpayers. Taxpayers with a 2010 Adjusted Gross Income of \$58,000 or less who meet additional requirements can qualify for Free File. For more information on the program visit IRS.gov.

TWC also is encouraging qualifying taxpayers to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which allows lower-income individuals and families to pay less or no federal income tax, or receive cash payments. Local Workforce Solutions Offices offer tax preparation help, including how to file for EITC. For more information on specific services provided by Local Workforce Boards in your area, please visit www.texasworkforce.org.

EITC does not affect an individual's eligibility to receive certain public assistance benefits. In most cases, the credit payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.