

Boston EITC Campaign Products and Services Strategies for Low Income Communities

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Boston EITC Campaign

- Coalition formed in 2001
- Key partners include City of Boston, Bo Fed, ABCD, IRS, Bo Chamber, HOPE, Dotwell, FDIC, JVS
- Provided tax preparation for several years and then moved to incorporate an Asset Building Strategy
- In 2007 tax season 210 volunteers at 22 tax centers served 9000 taxpayers with free tax prep
- Returned \$15 million in tax refunds and credits, \$5,521,301 in Earned Income Tax Credit

Demographics of Boston Taxpayers

- 63.7% Women
- 55.5% African American
- 19% Latino
- 30% Speak language other than English
- 55.6% High School Grad or Some College
- 19.4% Have No Health Care
- 15.9% Receive Food stamps

Savings to Boston LMI Taxpayers

- Over the four years we have tracked data:
- More than 32,000 taxpayers have been served
- More than 950 volunteers have helped keep money in our local neighborhoods
- More than \$50 million refunded to Boston's LMI taxpayers
- If each taxpayer saved an average of \$100 using the coalition's free tax prep services in commercial fees, \$3.2 million dollars has remained in taxpayers pockets and in the local economy

Asset Building Activity in 2007

- Credit Counseling - 673 credit reports pulled (including running FICO scores) and one on one counseling sessions completed
- Since 2001 Citizens, Sovereign, BOA, Mt. Washington and Tremont Credit Union have opened accounts at the tax sites
- Joined with Health Care For All and Mayor's Health Line to provide benefits screening for health care and food stamps
- Joined National Savings Bond Pilot with D2D. LMI taxpayers purchased 68 savings bonds for their children and grandchildren
- Research shows that savings occurs with the right product mix

Model Products and Criteria

- No Mattress has ever charged a compounded fee
- Products need to be customized for LMI population
- Overdraft protection with fair line of credit
- Low or no fees, not just teaser rates
- Waive cheques systems
- Provide high yield short term products such as \$250 Three Month CD
- Dispute rights for lost or stolen stored value cards