

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## News from the Department of Public Welfare

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### SCHEDULE OF CASH BENEFIT DATES AND SNAP BENEFIT DATES January 2012 through December 2012

IF YOU RECEIVE CASH PAYMENTS - YOU SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR CASH PAYMENTS ON THESE DATES.  
(If you receive Blind Pension or Blind Pension Nursing Home Care payments, you should receive one payment on the first payment date of each month indicated by the (\*) asterisk.

IF YOU RECEIVE SNAP BENEFITS, YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THEM ON THE DATES INDICATED BY THE (\*) ASTERISK. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR BENEFITS, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ASSISTANCE OFFICE.

TO AVOID DELAYS OF YOUR BENEFITS, REPORT ALL CHANGES TIMELY TO YOUR ASSISTANCE OFFICE.

#### KEEP THIS NOTICE SO YOU CAN REFER TO IT

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
*3 18	*1 15	*1 16	*2 17	*1 16	*1 18
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
*2 18	*1 16	*4 18	*1 17	*1 16	*3 17

# Did you know...that working pays?

**T**hat's right. As a working family, the federal government might owe you money, and you might qualify to have your taxes done for free. Pennsylvania also offers tax credits for low income workers – about one in four workers qualify for this program. It pays to work and to check out your options!

## What is the Earned Income Credit?

The **Earned Income Credit** (also known as EIC or EITC) is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. It has several important purposes: to reduce the tax burden on these workers, to supplement wages and to provide a work incentive. Workers who qualify for the EIC and file a federal tax return can get back some or all of the federal tax that was taken out of their pay during the year. They may also get extra cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings are too small to owe income tax can get the EIC. What's more, the EIC offsets any additional taxes workers may owe, such as payroll taxes. Remember to discuss EIC with your tax preparer.

## Where can I get free help filing my taxes?

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a program of the IRS, helps you fill out your tax forms for free. VITA sites are open through April 15. **KEEP ALL OF YOUR REFUND.** VITA and the IRS can save you money on tax preparation fees. To find a VITA site near you, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The telephone operator can find the location nearest you. Please be patient. The lines are often busy.

## What is Tax Forgiveness?

Depending on your income and family size, you may qualify for a reduction in your tax liability with the state's Tax Forgiveness program. For example, a family of four can earn \$32,000 and get as much as \$982 in state Tax Forgiveness. And a single-parent, two-child family with income of \$25,500 may get \$783 in state Tax Forgiveness. Contact the Department of Revenue at 717-787-8201, or visit [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) for more information about the Tax Forgiveness program.

You can now see a list of all of your Department of Public Welfare benefits by using the Internet! To access your COMPASS Account:

- Go to COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).
- Click on the "My COMPASS Account" button.
- Click on "Register as a New User."
- Read the "My COMPASS Account" terms and conditions.
- Click that you agree to the terms and conditions and click continue.
- Fill in the registration form and click continue.
- Log-in to "My COMPASS Account" for a list of benefits for each family member.



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

[www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us)