

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**News from the**  
**Department of Human Services**

**Did you know the Department of Human Services developed a mobile app called myCOMPASS PA?**

The app is for Pennsylvanians who have applied for or get assistance benefits. It offers many of the same features found on COMPASS, but right from your mobile phone. You can now access your benefits from anywhere, whenever you want.

The app will be available for both Apple and Android devices. Check your mobile app store often for download availability!



With myCOMPASS PA, managing your benefits just got easier.

^ Cut on the fold line ^

**SCHEDULE OF CASH BENEFIT DATES AND SNAP BENEFIT DATES**  
**January 2017 through December 2017**

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
*6 23	*7 22	*7 22	*7 21	*5 22	*7 22
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
*7 21	*7 22	*8 22	*5 23	*6 21	*7 21

# 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, in 2015, a family of four could have earned up to \$34,250 and may have qualified under the state's Tax Forgiveness program. A single-parent, two-child family with income up to \$27,750 may have qualified under the state's Tax Forgiveness program. Contact the Department of Revenue at 717-787-8201, or visit [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov) for more information about the Tax Forgiveness program.

## You can access Department of Human Services benefits by creating a "My COMPASS Account".

A "My COMPASS Account" serves as a centralized location for your application and case information. It lets you or your household members see if you qualify for benefits, apply for and renew your benefits, save and submit applications, check the status of your application, submit documents electronically, view your household's case benefit information, report changes to your case, receive notices electronically, and manage other aspects of your case online. To create your COMPASS Account:

- Go to [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- Click on "My COMPASS Account."
- Click on "Register a new My COMPASS Account."
- Follow the instructions to register for a "My COMPASS Account."



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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