

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

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

Save time by sending your verification documents right from your smart phone using myCOMPASS PA mobile app.  
 Download the app today to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Retrieve username and password<br/>         Report changes<br/>         Upload documents</p> | <p>Check application and benefit status<br/>         Submit your Semiannual Reporting<br/>         View eNotices</p> |
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Your Benefits, Made Easier.



^ Cut on the fold line ^

**SCHEDULE OF CASH BENEFIT DATES AND SNAP BENEFIT DATES**  
**January 2018 through December 2018**

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	*2 19	*3 17	*1 16	*1 18
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
*2 17	*1 16	*4 18	*2 17	*1 16	*4 18

# Did you know...that working pays?

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

## What is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The **Earned Income Tax Credit** (also known as EIC or EITC) is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may give you a refund. To qualify for EITC you must have earned income and/or meet the additional rules for workers without a qualifying child, or have a child that meets **all** the qualifying rules. For more information visit the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and select the "Credits & Deductions" tab.

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

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program of the IRS, helps you fill out your tax forms for free. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. To find a VITA site near you, call the IRS at 1-800-906-9887. 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 refund or reduction of your Pennsylvania income tax liability with the state's Tax Forgiveness program. For example, a family of four (couple with two dependent children) can earn up to \$34,250 and qualify for Tax Forgiveness. A single-parent, two-child family with income up to \$27,750 can also qualify for Tax Forgiveness. 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.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)