

CONTROLLER JOHN CHIANG

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.445.2636
www.controller.ca.gov

PR07:011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MARCH 2, 2007

CONTACT: HALLYE JORDAN
916-445-2636

Chiang, Núñez Urge Taxpayers to Apply for Earned Income Tax Credit, Worth up to \$4,500

Californians Also Urged to Take Advantage of Free Tax Preparation Assistance

LOS ANGELES – As the April 17 deadline for filing state and federal taxes nears, State Controller John Chiang and Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) today urged Californians to take advantage of free tax preparation assistance – including identification of tax credits and refunds that may be owed to taxpayers.

“Tax forms can be intimidating, and not everyone can afford to hire a professional or buy software to help them prepare their taxes,” Chiang said. “These free tax preparations not only help low-income, elderly, disabled and non-English speakers complete their returns, they also help identify refunds and tax credits the taxpayer might otherwise not know about.”

According to the IRS, the Earned Income Tax Credit is one of the most overlooked tax deductions. Last year the Franchise Tax Board estimated 460,000 families did not claim the EITC and missed out on close to \$850 million in refunds due to them. The EITC this year is worth up to \$4,500 for those who qualify.

More than 1,800 free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) events are scheduled throughout the state this year to provide assistance to Californians needing help filling out their income tax forms.

“The Earned Income Tax Credit helps the hard-working people of this state make ends meet,” Núñez said while touring a VITA center at the Los Angeles Franchise Tax Board (FTB) office with Chiang, FTB chairman. “Our goal here today is not just to help people make ends meet. Our goal is to help people move ahead.”

“The rich hire tax accountants to identify every possible tax write-off they can so they don’t leave thousands of dollars on the table,” Chiang added. “There is no reason why any of us should.”

To find free tax preparation assistance and receive help in claiming tax credits and refunds that may be owed, call the FTB at 1-800-338-0505, or visit www.ftb.ca.gov, and click on [VITA/TCE Filing assistance](#).

To find more about the Earned Income Tax Credit, go online at www.irs.gov/eitc or call the IRS toll free at 1-800-TAX-1040.

###