



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Region Director
Region II**

April 13, 2012

Dear Colleague,

As you know, the Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with the IRS to promote outreach about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC helps many working families make ends meet. Any family who earns \$49,078 or less may be eligible for EITC, depending on marital status and family size.

In 2011, people in New York and New Jersey claimed EITC for a total of \$4.79 billion! Although we have reached the 2012 deadline for filing tax returns, please keep in mind that eligible families can always file tax returns to receive unclaimed EITC for the last three years.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, funded by the IRS, offers free tax preparation for people with low-to-moderate incomes. VITA sites, run by non-profit organizations, help families receive the tax credits they have earned.

The IRS is kicking off its VITA grant application process for the 2013 tax season. The grant program allows organizations to apply for annual funding for up to three years. Applications are due by May 30, 2012.

Please see the attached message and brochure from the IRS about VITA grant applications. The IRS will be hosting webinars for interested organizations. For more information, please visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

I encourage you to explore applying for a VITA grant.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jaime Torres
Regional Director