

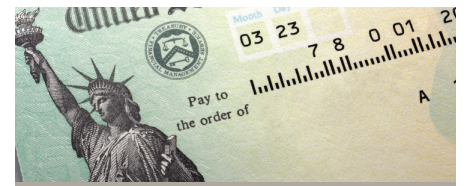
For Working Families, Tax Time is a Gateway to Opportunity



For more than a decade, the Center for Economic Progress has been on the forefront of **turning tax time into an opportunity** for low-wage workers and their families to get ahead. Our free **tax and financial services** provide a holistic approach to help people move **from financial uncertainty to financial security**.

We improve our families' financial lives.

At the Center's 39 tax sites, families get much more than a free tax return—they get the information, tools and training they need to put their tax refund to work. Typically the largest infusion of cash a working family will see all year, a family's tax refund provides an opportunity to pay down debt, start saving and give themselves some much-needed financial breathing room.



Our typical client receives a \$1,900 tax refund.

We are proven.

Since 1995, we've served more than 230,000 families, returning \$340 million in refunds—more than any other organization of our kind. We have also helped more than 6,500 families open bank accounts and cut their ties to predatory financial services.

We are local in service, national in voice.

Our direct service model has been so successful that we've begun to export it to our partners in cities as far away as Albuquerque, Raleigh and Boston, ensuring that families across the country have the best opportunity possible to make economic progress. What we learn on-the-ground, we translate into best practices in the field and workable policy solutions at the federal and state levels.

We provide a holistic approach.

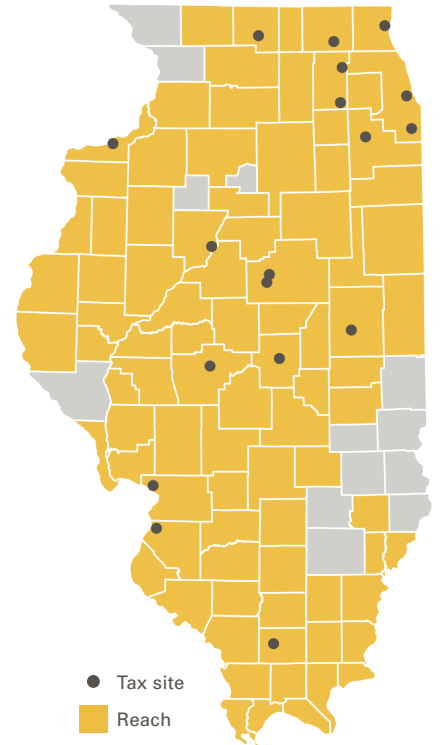
When clients enter our tax sites, opportunity is at their fingertips:

Get high-quality tax help	Get financial coaching
Obtain timely tax advice	Learn how to establish healthy credit
Start saving	Start solving an IRS problem
Learn about money traps	Make a plan to pay for college
Open a bank account	Get referrals to year-round support

High Impact, Broad Reach

During the 2009 tax season, the Center put \$52 million back into the pockets of more than 33,000 Illinois families and their communities. **We saved families** over \$6 million in tax preparation fees.

Our **1,200-member volunteer** corps contributed 37,000 hours **preparing** tax returns, **counseling** clients on their tax situations and **connecting** them to financial services to save them money.



Even families who find themselves owing money to the IRS can make progress by working with the Center's free tax clinic, which can help them set up a payment plan, and learn how to avoid future problems.



Real People

Walking through the halls of Truman College, Autumn looked like any other student there—busy. For Autumn, though, it had started to look like her first year would also be her last. With a disabled sister to care for, tuition bills coming due and a full-time work and school schedule, dropping out of college to pick up extra work seemed like the only option.

Fortunately for Autumn, she came to the Center's tax site at Truman College, where a volunteer helped her claim several tax credits worth thousands of dollars that she didn't know she was eligible for and introduced her to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to help her pay for school. This year, she'll receive her nursing certificate and start a well-paying career.

Read more success stories on our website: www.economicprogress.org

Our Track Record in 2009



Connected 1,700 families with the right financial product at the right time

From no-cost bank accounts and pre-paid debit cards to savings bonds, the Center and its partners are pioneers in helping families save at tax time.



Nearly 800 students applied for financial aid

Smart finances make for successful students. Through our financial coaching program, we helped students fill out the FAFSA and find their path to college.



Public benefits screening for more than 550 families

By partnering with employers, we provided tax help, financial guidance and access to benefits—right at their workplace.



Developed 60 new resources for tax programs in the field

Through our national work, we promote best practices and encourage collaboration to shape and grow the tax and financial services field.

Did you know that the average American family has approximately \$8,300 in debt and four credit cards? A family's tax refund can help them get out of bad debt like this.

2009 Tax Season

Site Location	Federal Tax Returns Prepared	Value of Tax Refunds
Chicago*	15,634	\$24,205,364
Auburn-Gresham	1,437	\$2,216,416
Bronzeville	1,326	\$2,109,778
Chicago Lawn	681	\$1,337,180
Humboldt Park	815	\$1,291,677
Lawndale	814	\$1,413,794
Loop	2,725	\$3,620,395
Pilsen	1,854	\$3,674,566
Rogers Park	627	\$856,722
Southeast Chicago	363	\$636,465
Uptown**	4,026	\$5,571,174
West Garfield Park	729	\$1,201,965
Alton	1,662	\$2,615,712
Aurora	825	\$1,374,052
Bloomington/Normal**	1,458	\$1,792,090
Champaign	873	\$1,323,752
Crystal Lake	442	\$763,297
Decatur	1,547	\$2,228,298
East St. Louis	1,345	\$2,159,826
Elgin	999	\$1,725,061
Harvey	1,435	\$2,554,749
Joliet	775	\$1,478,158
Marion	1,669	\$2,463,708
Peoria**	700	\$1,214,501
Rock Island	741	\$1,239,681
Rockford	704	\$1,260,264
Springfield	1,107	\$1,816,446
Waukegan	653	\$1,116,229
Total*	33,308	\$52,256,837

*Includes single-day events. At events in Chicago and surrounding areas, about 327 returns were prepared and \$337,287 in refunds generated; at events held in downstate Illinois, about 649 returns were prepared, and refunds totaled \$863,594.

**Center has more than one tax site in this community.



CENTER FOR

EconomicProgress

Working Solutions for Working Families

Growing Our Strong Network

To truly **create change** in a community, it takes more than one organization; it takes a **focused team approach**. That's why our partners are so key to our success.

We **engage** in several different types of partnerships.

Community Partner

Dozens of community partners serve as hosts—providing us with a space to bring our tax and financial services to their community. Our “host” partners reap great benefits:

- Improved visibility
- Expanded services
- Increased foot traffic and more clients

Other community partners provide marketing and outreach assistance, playing a key role in informing low-income families of our services.

Volunteer Recruitment Partner

More than 80 organizations, such as AT&T, Banco Popular, the Illinois CPA Society and JPMorgan Chase, have discovered how our volunteer opportunities help improve employee performance and skills while building trust. Our partners distribute brochures, post flyers at their organization, church or school and allow us to make presentations to their employees or members.

Financial Partner

We build relationships with reputable banks and credit unions that have branches in low-income communities and have low- to no-fee services. Our financial partners provide safe, affordable products at our tax sites and dependable staffing to help clients take advantage of these products.

Technology Partner

State-of-the-art technology helps make our program operations more efficient, and enables us to serve more clients. We seek donations of computers, servers, wireless cards, routers, switches and USB memory sticks.

Partner with Us

To discuss how to get involved, contact:

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Partner Profile



Instituto del Progreso Latino

Partner since 2003

A key partner in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, Instituto del Progreso Latino joins the Center in its dedication to help low-income families move forward. As one of our largest tax sites, Instituto is a pilot site for our financial services work, helping connect the families that we serve with financial aid assistance as well as bank accounts and savings products.

“We have to do everything we can to relate with people around their finances—to give them opportunities to do as much as they can with their [tax refund].”

—Juan Salgado
Executive Director
Instituto del Progreso Latino

Visit us online at www.economicprogress.org.