



vita Volunteer
Income Tax Assistance

MEDIA ADVISORY
For January 9, 2008

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Newark Now VITA Prepares Taxes For Free and Earns Bigger Refunds

WHAT: On Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Newark's largest free tax services program, Newark Now Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) hosts a press conference to launch six (6) additional free tax preparation sites to total nine (9) in the City of Newark. For five years, Newark Now VITA has provided free tax services in partnership with the City of Newark, the County of Essex, and Internal Revenue Service. The free tax services are available to any New Jersey resident earning \$40,000 or less. Newark Now VITA is prepared to serve twice as many filers at its nine citywide locations. The increased demand is due to eligibility changes in New Jersey's EITC program.

WHO: Jon S. Corzine, Governor, New Jersey
Jim Gordon, Division of Taxation, Department of Treasury, New Jersey
Mayor Cory Booker, City of Newark
Modia Butler, President, Newark Now
Anthony Santiago, VP of Asset Development, Newark Now
Anibal Ramos, Director, Department of Economic Development, Training and Employment, County of Essex
Reggie Dorsey, Newark Asset Building Coalition
Debra Chapman, Internal Revenue Service

WHEN: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 12:30PM

WHERE: Rotunda, Newark City Hall, 920 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

WHY: New Jersey's new EITC rules increase eligibility for moderate and low-income earners to receive the refundable credit available through the nation's most effective poverty-fighting program. Starting this year New Jersey EITC benefits are now available to families without children. Additionally, the state income threshold is now \$39,783, up from \$20,000 previously. Newark Now VITA exists to encourage people in urban areas to take advantage of the earned income-tax credit and offers free tax service to any New Jersey resident earning less than \$40,000. VITA is a program administered by Newark Now's Families Regaining Economic Empowerment Initiative (FREE). VITA partners include Newark Asset Building Coalition, IRS, County of Essex, the City of Newark.

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