

This week, IRS Tax Assistance Centers will officially open in the First Congressional District. Over 50 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites in the First Congressional District will be available to help assist low- and middle- income individuals and families as well as seniors complete their tax return and ensure they claim all of their eligible tax benefits. The IRS VITA Program offers free tax help to people who earn less than \$49,000 and the TCE Program offers free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I am committed to ensuring that all of my constituents are aware of the available tax credits they can claim on their tax return. For example, The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) could make a significant financial difference for millions of low-income working families across the country during these tough economic times; however, 5-7 million eligible people fail to claim the tax benefit every year.

Last year in Connecticut, 183,000 EITC-eligible workers claimed the benefit and received a total of \$334 million dollars, an average of \$1,828 per claim.

[To find a list of VITA and TCE centers in your area, please click here](#) . In addition, below you will find tax benefits provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that can be claimed on your 2009 tax return.

If you have any questions or need information about any of the eligible tax benefits, please contact my office at 860-278-8888 or visit <http://www.Larson.House.Gov> .

Recovery Act Tax Benefits

* **First-Time Homebuyer Credit**- Homebuyers who purchased a home in 2009 can get a credit of up to \$8,000 with no payback requirement. New legislation extended and expanded this credit to homes purchased by April 30, 2010.

* **New Vehicle Purchases**-Taxpayers who bought certain new vehicles in 2009 can deduct the state and local sales taxes they paid or other taxes and fees they paid in states with no sales tax.

* **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Incentives**- Individuals that made energy efficient improvement to their homes such as adding insulation, energy efficient exterior windows, heating and air conditioning systems may claim it on their tax returns.
[Please click here for a list of eligible federal tax credits for consumer energy-efficient products or renewable energy systems.](#)

* **COBRA**- Workers who lose their jobs may qualify for reduced COBRA health insurance premiums for a period of up to 15 months. Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's COBRA Web site, www.dol.gov/cobra , for details on this recently-extended and expanded subsidy.