

CONNECT FOR SUCCESS

An Oswego County Workforce New York Newsletter

Changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit

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Special points of interest:

- * Oswego County Workforce New York has computer labs for updating your resume and searching for jobs.
- * Many workshops are available to assist you with your job search.
- * Our staff are ready to help you!

Oswego County Workforce New York is reaching out to our customers regarding the potential availability of tax credits, the need to file federal and State income tax returns to claim these tax credits, and the free tax filing services available through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites (VITA), and Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA) sites.

The EITC continues to be a very important potential tax benefit and work support available to eligible households. The EITC and other tax credits are an important tool which can dramatically increase the economic resources available to eligible workers. Research indicates that 20-25% of those who are eligible each year fail to claim their credit, either because they are unaware of it or don't know how to obtain it.

The maximum credits have increased and are as follows:

- 3 or more children: \$6,269 (Federal) + \$1,881 (State) = \$8,150
- 2 children: \$5,572 (Federal) + \$1,672 (State) = \$7,244
- 1 child: \$3,373 (Federal) + \$1,012 (State) = \$4,385
- No children: \$506 (Federal) + \$152 (State) = \$658

The qualifying earned and adjusted gross income limits for EITCs have increased and are:

- 3 or more qualifying children: \$47,955 (or \$53,505 if married filing jointly)
- 2 qualifying children: \$44,648 (or \$50,198 if married filing jointly)
- 1 qualifying child: \$39,296 (or \$44,846 if married filing jointly)
- No qualifying children: \$14,880 (or \$20,430 if married filing jointly)

New York State also has a tax credit that is specifically available for noncustodial parents who earned less than \$39,296 in 2016 and who are at least 18 years of age that is worth up to \$1,265. The credit supplements the earning of qualified noncustodial parents, which can help them become more involved in the economic and social well-being of their children. A State Form IT-209 Claim for Noncustodial Parent New York State Earned Income Credit must be filed with Form IT-201 to claim this credit.



The federal Child Tax Credit, worth up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17, is a nonrefundable credit used to reduce the amount of tax liability. In some cases, the federal Child Tax Credit may exceed the amount of tax liability, and the taxpayer may be able to claim the remainder in the form of an Additional Child Tax Credit, which is a refundable credit. The Additional Child Tax Credit may be claimed by filing Form 8812: Additional Child Tax Credit with the taxpayer's federal return.

In addition to the EITCs, an eligible working family can claim both the federal Child Tax Credit and the NYS Empire State Child Credit.

The federal Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps a qualifying family pay for child care or for the care of a spouse or adult dependent that is incapable of caring for him or herself. The credit ranges from 20% to 35% of the taxpayer expense. The percentage is based on the taxpayer's earned income and adjusted gross income. The credit may be claimed by completing and attaching Form 2442 to Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

Low Cost or Free Tax Filing Resources

Taxpayers with annual income of less than \$64,000 can file both their State and federal tax returns at a Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA) site for free. These sites have computers and reference materials available as well as a volunteer able to help the taxpayer navigate tax software. The NYS Department of Tax and Finance will be offering multiple FSA sites throughout the State. Locations of these sites can be found at: <http://www.tax.ny.gov/fsa>.

Taxpayers with their own computer can visit and file through: <http://www.myfreetaxes.com>. This option permits one federal and up to 3 State e-file returns. Customers with an income above the limit for free filing will be charged a nominal fee.



I'm always asked, "What's the secret to success?" But there are no secrets. Be humble. Be hungry. And always be the hardest worker in the room.

~ **Dwayne Johnson**

Free Filing at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites

Many workers, especially those who are new to the workforce, are hesitant to complete tax filings on their own because they are intimidated by the array of forms or are unfamiliar with the process. Such workers often seek help from commercial tax preparers and pay a fee for this service, which can significantly reduce the net amount of any refund. In addition, for additional fees and at significantly higher rate of interest, some paid preparers still offer refund anticipation loans. Again, these fees reduce the net amount of the refund and should be discouraged in most circumstances in favor of waiting for full refunds due. A preferable alternative is for individuals to have their tax forms completed and e-filed for free by visiting their local VITA sites. Most sites provide e-filing and

if used, that taxpayer can receive their refund and/or credits direct deposited into their bank account. VITA sites provide these services at no charge for qualified individuals and families with a total income less than \$54,000 for 2016. From the end of January through April 18, 2017, VITA sites will operate within every county in the State.

This information is intended as general information only. Individuals may obtain specific federal tax information on the IRS Website: <http://www.irs.gov> or by calling the IRS toll free at: (800) 829-1040. New York State taxpayer assistance information is available at: <http://www.tax.ny.gov> or by calling the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance at: (518) 457-5181.

Be Ready for Uncomfortable Situations at Work

You'll face some awkward moments in your career, but your success depends on your ability to overcome your weaknesses. Be prepared for uncomfortable moments like these:

- **Accepting a compliment.** Criticism is hard to take, but for some people, accepting a compliment can be almost as nerve-wracking. Don't shrug compliments off or explain your actions at great length. Listen, thank the person sincerely, and then move on.
- **Misunderstanding data.** Even if your job doesn't involve analyzing numbers, learn some basics, like how to read a spreadsheet, understand a budget, recognize trends, and play with data to see what happens when you change a variable.

- **Admitting your mistakes.** We all make mistakes. Trying to hide them, or blaming them on forces beyond your control, makes you look unreliable and unprofessional. Own up to your errors honestly and then do your best to fix them.

- **Receiving criticism.** Everyone likes praise, but we usually learn more from criticism. Learn to listen with an open mind and without becoming defensive. If the criticism is accurate, do your best to change. If you think it's wrong, remain calm as you explain your point of view—and remember that you can't win every battle. Sometimes you'll have to take the criticism and keep going.



Oswego County Workforce New York Workshop Schedule

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
For information or to sign up please call – 591-9000		1 9:00-11:00 Effective Resume 9:00-12:00 WIOA Overview	2 9:00-11:00 Ready Set Go	3
6	7 9:00-4:00 Word	8 9:00-11:00 Effective Interviewing 9:00-12:00 WIOA Overview	9 9:00-11:00 Ready Set Go 9:00-4:00 Excel 12:00-1:30 Metrix	10
13	14	15 9:00-11:00 Effective Resume 9:00-12:00 WIOA Overview 1:30-2:30 Effective Cover Letter	16 9:00-11:00 Ready Set Go	17
20	21 9:00-4:00 QuickBooks 1:30-2:30 Over 40 & Hired	22 9:00-11:00 Effective Interviewing 9:00-12:00 WIOA Overview	23 9:00-11:00 Ready Set Go 12:00-1:30 Metrix 1:00-3:00 Intro to Computers	24
27	28	29 9:00-11:00 Effective Resume 1:30-3:30 Civil Service	30 9:00-11:00 Ready Set Go 1:00-3:00 Internet Job Search	31

- ◆ **Basic Word-** A 3-hour class for a beginner that needs to learn how to move around while typing or entering information. Emphasis on ability and confidence.
- ◆ **Effective Cover Letter-** So you've finally got your resume nailed down, but how's your cover letter looking? This workshop offers best practices to craft an effective, professional cover letter while avoiding the most common pitfalls that can make hiring managers groan.
- ◆ **Effective Interviewing-** Suggestions to prepare for a successful job interview and interview phases will be discussed.
- ◆ **Effective Resume Writing-** An intro to resume development where the tips and tools to develop a resume and cover letter will be discussed.
- ◆ **Internet Job Search-** Learn to locate and research employers, the advantages and disadvantages of job banks and upload, copy and paste your resume into online applications. *Email address & electronic resume required.*
- ◆ **Introduction to Computers-** Develop a new skill and learn the basics of using a Personal Computer. Learn about windows, the mouse, files and more. *Email address & resume requested but not required.*
- ◆ **Metrix-** An online learning system with a large catalog of courses and assessments. Customers can choose a goal job, assess their skills, and the system will then suggest courses to improve existing skills and learn new.
- ◆ **Microsoft Excel 2010-** Learn to move around spreadsheets and how to enter data. Begin with simple formulas and move on to auto-sum and functions. Skills taught include filter, formatting and charts. 9am – 4 pm
- ◆ **Microsoft Word 2010-** Learn how to work efficiently with Word to build your skills. Emphasis is placed on how to type a resume. Skills include text and paragraph formatting, spellcheck, autocorrect, managing bullets and graphics. 9am – 4 pm
- ◆ **Networking-** Not getting anywhere with your applications or resumes? More people find jobs through networking than any other way. In this workshop, learn how to set up and maximize your job search network.

- ◆ **Over 40 and Hired-** Discuss the many positive contributions made by mature experienced workers, review the hiring process as well as marketing strategies in a highly competitive job market.
- ◆ **PowerPoint 2010-** Learn how to build a presentation. Skills include changing colors and background, adding text and graphics, transitions, animations, sound and packaging the presentation to share. Half day class.
- ◆ **QuickBooks 2014-** Not just an accounting program, QuickBooks is also used by front desk, customer service and sales. Learn the basics of customer service, accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventory and reports. 9am – 4 pm
- ◆ **Ready Set Go (to Work)-** How to look for work, the hidden job market, selecting the best resume format; combination, chronological, cover letters, discussion time for any questions.
- ◆ **Understanding the Civil Service System-** Get a better understanding of how to obtain employment with local and state governments and school districts.
- ◆ **WIOA Overview-** An introduction to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and more. Must be scheduled by a staff person; required if interested in training.

**Partner Agencies/
Workshops**

**Oswego County
Opportunities**
www.oco.org

Oswego County BOCES
www.oswegoboces.org/
adulted/index.asp

**Cayuga Community
College**
www.cayuga-cc.edu

www.indeed.com

Indeed.com is a new type of job search engine which pulls job listings from a variety of sources—such as America’s Job Bank, syracuse.com and monster.com. Click on Advanced Search to narrow your results by keyword, location and full or part-time.

200 North Second Street
Fulton NY 13069
Return Service Requested

Did You Know...

Did you know...that Oswego County’s average unemployment rate for the year 2016 was 6.3%? This was a decrease from the year 2015 rate of 7.1%.

Did you know...that the Public Computing Center (PCC) at the Oswego Public Library offers a free computer workshop series? Just call 342-8839 or visit the website, <http://oswego.learninglibraries.org>, to see a complete list of classes offered.

Did you know...that we are now on Facebook? To view job postings and other information go to www.facebook.com and search for Oswego County Workforce New York.

Did you know...that you can visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov to determine eligibility for assistance programs, health insurance, and tax credits?

Did you know...that accounting students from SUNY Oswego will be available at the Oswego County Workforce New York Center in Fulton to prepare and electronically file your income taxes on Tuesdays from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm, starting January 31st, 2017 through April 11th, 2017? They will NOT be here on Tuesday, March 14th. Service provided on a first come, first served basis.



AN OSWEGO COUNTY WORKFORCE
NEW YORK NEWSLETTER

Connect for Success

Oswego County Workforce New York

(315) 591-9000 phone
(315) 591-9091 TTY

(315) 591-9009 fax
(315) 591-9024 fax

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.YOURCAREERCONNECTION.ORG

Please see below the following recruitments and job fairs that will be taking place at the Fulton One Stop:

- 3/1 - Self-Direct: 11:00 am—2:00 pm**
- 3/3, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31 - GDI Services: 9:00 am—2:00 pm**
- 3/14 - Columbia College: 9:30 am—11:30 am**
- 3/22 - Remedy Staffing: 10:00 am—1:00 pm**

Visit our Facebook page for more information!

Oswego County Workforce New York is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

