

# Address Rising Costs for Working Families

The rising cost of living is creating a crisis for working families. Oregon legislators can help to ease the burden by increasing tax filing assistance and expanding access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Together, these measures will allow working Oregonians to keep more of their hard-earned cash, reduce poverty, and support local economies.

**Expand the Tax Infrastructure Grant (TIG) program:** The Oregon Department of Human Services' TIG program provides grants to organizations that help families file taxes. However, many eligible families still miss out on claiming tax credits, leaving an estimated \$100 million in federal EITC unclaimed annually. By increasing the program's biennial funding from \$8 million to \$22 million, Oregon can help more families, particularly in rural communities, file their taxes and claim millions in withholdings and tax benefits.

- House Bill 2991:** Increase funding for the Tax Infrastructure Grant program by \$14 million per biennium.

**Strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** The EITC benefits over 200,000 working families across Oregon, lifting tens of thousands out of poverty. The EITC is only available for Oregonians with earned income and phases out at about \$65,000. Increasing the EITC and making it more accessible to all adults, regardless of age, will help families address the rising cost of living and support the well-being of children across the state.

- House Bill 2958:** Expand the EITC by increasing the rates to 25% for families with children under 3 and 20% for all other families, extend eligibility to all working adults, exempt the EITC from garnishment, and add a trigger for quarterly advance payments.

## Combined, these measures will:

- **Address rising costs for working families and reduce poverty:** Both measures will help families catch up on bills, improve child well-being, and promote educational attainment.
- **Support small businesses and Oregon's economy:** By bringing in tens of millions of dollars of federal funds, the TIG will increase resources available for families to spend at small businesses in their community. Furthermore, EITC spending generates \$1.40 to \$1.58 in local economic activity for every dollar received.
- **Strengthen rural communities:** Rural families are more likely to qualify for the EITC, but have access to fewer resources for tax preparation and filing. The TIG expansion will prioritize expanding services to rural communities.

For more detailed information on the proposals go to [https://bit.ly/EITC\\_TIG](https://bit.ly/EITC_TIG) or scan here ->



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