

THE PACES PROJECT

The PACES (Preventing ACEs through Collaboration and Economic Supports) **Project is a multi-sectoral partnership to expand access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), particularly among families with young children.**

What are ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events in childhood that can have lasting impacts well into adulthood, affecting later health, wellbeing, and future academic and financial potential. Evidence has demonstrated a link between a family's income level and exposure risks to ACEs.

What is the EITC?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income, intended to help eligible people keep more of the money they earn.

The greatest beneficiaries of the EITC are families with children, with the amount received based on household income and family size.

How can EITCs help build stronger communities?

Obtaining the EITC has been linked to positive health outcomes by reducing poverty and strengthening a household's financial security.

The supplemental income takes a multi-generational approach to preventing ACEs and increasing the purchasing power of working families. The boost in household income could help families purchase healthier groceries, cover transportation, utilities or childcare expenses, or allow families to build up an emergency fund that could mitigate housing instability.

How can the community help?

Through education and trainings, along with direct outreach to connect families with free tax preparation, PACES aims to increase EITC receipt and protective factors against ACEs for families in East Austin. We are collaborating with organizations that serve families with young children in the greater Austin area to:

- Train frontline staff on the connection between ACEs and the EITC, and how to help families claim the EITC
- Distribute information about the EITC and free tax preparation to families
- Refer clients to free tax preparation services and encourage them to claim the EITC if eligible

IN TEXAS...

The average EITC amount received in 2020 was:

\$2,736¹

Eligible families with 3+ children can receive up to:

\$6,660²

1 in 5

people who could get the EITC don't claim it³, leaving billions of dollars unclaimed.

If you are interested in joining the PACES project, please contact:

Gabriela Mordi at Gabriela.Mordi@foundcom.org
or **Francisco Gallegos** at Francisco.Gallegos@uwaterloo.ca

¹ December 2020, Statistics for Tax Returns with EITC, IRS

² February 2021, Earned Income and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Tables, IRS

³ May 2020, Improving Health Outcomes Through Earned Income Tax Credits, CDC Foundation

