



OPPORTUNITIES

Sam is a single dad who works two jobs to support himself and his daughter. He works hard, and every dollar he makes is crucial to creating a good life for her. When tax time comes each year, Sam knows he can rely on the Earned Income Tax Credit to put a bit more money back into his pocket. And he knows he can always call 211 Colorado to be connected to a free tax preparation site.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

United Way has the vision, experience, relationships, and ability to take on and solve some of Weld County’s biggest challenges. Through United Way, together we are building a better Weld County, one where children are reading to learn by the start of fourth grade, youth are working at good jobs by age 25, families have stable housing, older adults are aging well, and people are connecting to the help they need. **Will you join us?**

Connecting Weld programs help human services increase in visibility, accessibility, and capacity.



CHALLENGES

8% of Weld County residents live in poverty; in east Greeley/Evans, the county seat, that rate rises to 21%—nearly one in four. And more than a third of the children living in east Greeley/Evans are in poverty. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax credit that goes to millions of low- and moderate-income working families each year. In addition to encouraging work, the EITC provides income, lifting millions of families out of poverty, as well as educational and health

benefits to its recipients and their children. Children whose families receive more income from refundable tax credits...

- do better in school
- are likelier to attend college
- are likely to earn more as adults
- are likelier to avoid the early onset of disabilities and other illnesses associated with childhood poverty

In 2018, the EITC and other refundable tax credits raised **10.6 million people out of poverty.**





“Nationwide as of December 2020, about 25 million eligible workers and families received about \$62 billion in EITC. The average amount of EITC received nationwide was about \$2,461.”

– Internal Revenue Service

INVESTMENTS

Now known as Get Ahead Colorado and managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the Piton Foundation offered the Tax Credits for Working Families Campaign for over 25 years. The primary goal is to increase the number of eligible families in Colorado receiving the EITC, as well as other tax credits aimed at helping lower income families. Research shows that the EITC lifts millions of families out of poverty each year. Additionally the EITC has been found to produce substantial increases in employment and reductions in welfare among single parents. Free tax preparation is also available to less affluent individuals and families.

211 Colorado has partnered on the EITC program for more than a decade. As tax season approaches, United Way of Weld County staff distribute EITC informational flyers at business and community presentations, 211 makes mention of the availability of the EITC when callers inquire about tax preparation, and 211 provides information and referral on free tax preparation sites for low to moderate income households and seniors. 211 tracks the number of calls during which it mentions the EITC and refers people to tax preparation resources. Based on this number of referrals, United Way receives reimbursement for its participation.

In 2020-2021, 81 Northeast Colorado callers were provided EITC information through 211 Colorado.

In 2020-2021, free tax preparation at Weld County sites was not available because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GIVE

Make a donation to support United Way of Weld County’s 211 Colorado service.

ADVOCATE

Make sure your family and friends know about free tax preparation and the EITC.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are always needed for office and clerical tasks.

Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.