



City of Cambridge

Department of Human Service Programs

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 349-6200, Fax (617) 349-6248

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
FROM: Bill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services
DATE: February 2, 1993
SUBJECT: Council Order #10, dated January 11, 1993
RE: Earned Income Credit (EIC) Outreach

=====

The DHSP is in the process of expanding the Food Stamp/WIC outreach and enrollment assistance program -- which currently helps 50 residents per week obtain benefits -- to incorporate assistance in applying for the federal Earned Income Credit refund (both for 1992 and retroactively, through submission of amended federal income tax returns, for 1989-91) and other benefits.

The Plan

Our multi-lingual outreach and enrollment assistance efforts will target clients of the City's pantries, parents of children in day care and public school, and patients at community health centers.

Our choice of a face-to-face approach to outreach and enrollment assistance is based on experience with Food Stamp/WIC outreach. Although we have distributed literally thousands of flyers to low income persons, the only people we have engaged in providing enrollment assistance have been those that our outreach workers have personally approached (and those referred by friends or acquaintances who were themselves helped by an outreach workers).

Steps Taken and/or In-Progress

Funding will be extended for the bilingual English/Spanish outreach worker (funded through CEOC with municipal and federal grant monies) who deserves primary credit for the success of the Food Stamp outreach program. In addition, we are working with the Food Pantry Network to explore possibilities for developing Kreyol-speaking and Portuguese-speaking outreach capability.

Fred Berman, a planner for the DHSP; Theresa Murdock, the DHSP Child Care Registrar; Don Hunter, the aforementioned Food Stamp/WIC outreach worker; and Kreyol-speaking staff from a local child care provider attended a private IRS training on the EIC arranged by Fred Berman.

We have obtained a supply of English and Spanish outreach materials printed and distributed by the National Women's Law Center in Washington D.C. (Such material is not available in other languages.)

Through a mailing (in English only) by the Rent Control Board, we have informed rent control tenants about our intention to provide assistance in obtaining EIC refunds.

DIVISIONS:

Childcare
349-6200

Community & Youth
349-6231

Low Income Fuel Assistance
349-6247

Recreation
349-6230

Community Learning Center
349-6363

Council on Aging/Elderly Services
349-6220

Planning & Development
349-6200

MultiService Center/Homeless Services
349-6340



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 8, 1993

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 24, regarding a public information program to assist low-income households in applying for special provisions for federal income tax, please find attached a response received from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #12
S-69

Awaiting Report Item No. 24 regarding a public information program to assist low-income households in applying for special provisions for federal income tax.

*See 1993 - City Mgr Requests
15 for original order.*

In City Council,

February 8, 1993

Placed on file