

Dear Senator Hoylman,

Thousands of New Yorkers – approximately one in five – are missing out on up to \$10,000 in tax credits, like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other related credits, such as Child Care Tax Credit. These credits are some of the most effective tools we as a country have to fight poverty. Though such credits – which can be worth up to \$10,000 – can be the largest lump sum New Yorkers might receive in a year, too many eligible working New Yorkers aren't claiming these credits because they simply don't know about them.

To ensure that our hardworking friends and neighbors know about these important credits, the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") is proud to announce that we have increased spending on our annual tax credit awareness campaign and free tax preparation services **20-fold** compared to last year.

There are now over 200 sites across the five boroughs where New Yorkers can file their taxes for free – many right in your district. We hope you will join us in informing your constituents that DCA can help them save hundreds of dollars per year by filing their taxes for free and access crucial refunds through tax credits.

DCA offers two ways for New Yorkers to file their taxes safely and for free:

In Person: *Annual incomes of \$53,000 or less (with children) or of \$18,000 or less (no children).* Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site in your neighborhood. VITA site preparers are IRS-trained and certified to help you file your taxes and claim credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and NYC Child Care Tax Credit, which may be worth up to \$10,000. Trained staff at all these sites protect your documents and use a secure website to share them for tax preparation.

Within your district, we have the following free tax prep site(s):

The Financial Clinic
115 West 30th St
Manhattan, NY 10001

Nazareth Housing
206 East 4th Street
Manhattan, NY 10009
212-505-3482

Center on the Square
20 Washington Square North

Manhattan, NY 10011
212-777-3555

Fulton Senior Center
119 Ninth Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10011
212-924-6710

Muhlenberg Library
209 West 23rd Street
Manhattan, NY 10011
212-924-1585

Project Renewal
200 Varick Street, Suite 900
Manhattan, NY 10014
212-620-0340

Science, Industry and Business Library
188 Madison Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10016

Housing Conservation Coordinators
777 Tenth Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10019
212-541-5996

Online: *Annual income of \$60,000 or less.* Go to nyc.gov/taxprep. The online service is easy and secure. Use a secure computer to protect your privacy.

We encourage you to email this information out to your lists, so that all eligible New Yorkers are able to take advantage of this free service. To help you spread the word, we have put together an informative tax credit campaign brochure in seven different languages, which you could find by clicking <http://on.nyc.gov/1sWLESH>.

For more information, let your constituents know to visit nyc.gov/taxprep or call 311 and ask for tax preparation assistance.

Best,

Julie Menin
Commissioner
New York City Department of Consumer Affairs