A BOOST FOR WORKING FAMILIES

HOW THE EITC HELPS ARKANSANS, AND OUR ECONOMY

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ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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HOW THE EITC HELPS ARKANSANS, AND OUR ECONOMY

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5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EITC (EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT)

1. Both sides of the aisle are singing praise for EITC programs. Since its inception, the EITC has received broad bipartisan approval because it supports working Americans and has been the most effective measure ever enacted to help families leave poverty behind.
2. Without a state level EITC, Arkansas is missing out on its full share of one of the most successful antipoverty measures ever introduced. Unlike about half of the states in the US, there is no state level EITC in Arkansas.
3. EITC programs encourage work and help families move out of poverty. A state EITC in Arkansas would piggyback on the federal version, which is proven to encourage considerable numbers of single parents to leave welfare and enter the workforce. EITCs did more to increase employment among single mothers than either welfare reform or economic recovery during the 1990s.
4. Local economies benefit from EITC programs. One study found that every dollar of EITC refunds resulted in $1.58 in total economic activity, and every $37,000 resulted in a permanent job added to the community.
5. State level EITCs are threatened by "non-refundable" options and by greedy "refund anticipation checks" (RACs). RACs target taxpayers at the time of filing and are similar in concept to predatory payday advance loans with their deceptive and unnecessary fees. Ensuring that the EITC is refundable is particularly important for Arkansas workers living in extreme poverty, because they often do not pay enough in income taxes to qualify for a meaningful credit without the refund portion.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) MEAN TO LOW-INCOME ARKANSANS?

Almost 20 percent of Arkansans live below the poverty line and we have the second highest child poverty rate in the nation.[1,2] As in most states, Arkansas has a tax structure that hurts lower-income families. In Arkansas, the bottom 20 percent of earners has a tax rate about double the rate paid by those that make the most. Taxpayers making less than $15,000 a year pay 12 cents in state and local taxes for every dollar they earn while those making more than $311,000 a year pay just six cents.[3] To say that this is fair would be a bit of a stretch. Arkansas has the tenth highest tax rate for the poor, yet unlike about half of the states in the US, there is no state level EITC to help balance out the bottom-heavy tax system.[4] A state level EITC in Arkansas would mean a more fair tax share for low-income Arkansans, fewer families living in poverty, and a boost to our local economy and tax revenue.

The EITC is a tax credit for working families. The federal government enacted the EITC in 1975 as part of the larger debate on fighting poverty. Congress planned for this credit to be a temporary tax relief plan for low-income families, but it worked so well that in 1978 lawmakers made the credit a permanent part of the tax code. Congress has expanded the federal EITC many times since 1978 to help more families. From the start, the EITC has received broad bipartisan support. It is successful across party lines because it encourages work, and has been the most effective tool ever enacted to help families climb out of poverty. President Reagan signed the Tax Reform Act in 1986 that made sure the EITC keeps up with rising prices. Early in 2014, House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan stated that the EITC increases labor force participation, rewards work, and raises millions out of poverty.[5]

State EITCs are based on the federal version, which is proven to encourage single parents to leave welfare and enter the workforce. The federal EITC is doing the same thing right here at home. A recent report found EITCs did more to increase employment among single mothers than either welfare reform or economic recovery during the 1990s.[6] Refundable tax credits like this nurture local economies because that is where they are spent. Taxpayers spend EITC money on essential items like appliances, vehicle maintenance, rent, or utilities.[7]

How does someone qualify for the EITC? The tax filer must:

- Have a Social Security number that allows them to work in the U.S.
- Earn money through employment – either they work for someone else or operate their own business or farm.
- Be a U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire tax year. The filer may also be the spouse of a U.S. citizen or resident alien.
- Meet the income limits outlined by the EITC which varies by the size of the number of children in their family. Also, the earnings claimed must be from working, it cannot be more than $3,300 in investment income.[8]
- Other qualifications depend on income, filing status, and qualifying children.

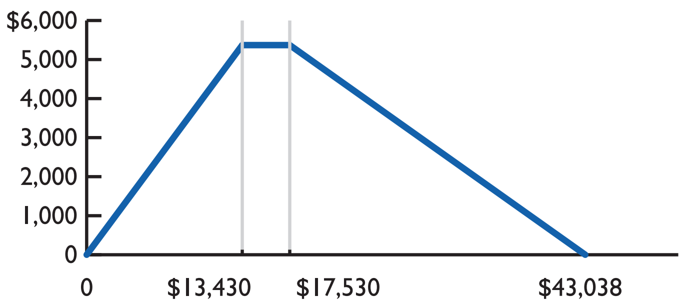
People who receive the EITC get a bigger credit with every dollar they earn up to a certain amount of income. Then it plateaus and starts to taper off. A single mom with two kids receives the largest possible credit of $5,370 when she starts to make about $13,500 annually. When she makes more than about $17,500 a year, her EITC credit starts to go down, and she is no longer eligible at about $43,000 a year.

Families with kids are eligible for a credit if they are working but make less than about $37,900 to $51,000 a year. Without kids, working citizens are eligible for the credit if they make less than about $14,300 to $19,700. These numbers vary depending on other factors like if someone is married, and the number of kids they have. A single mother of two who works full time at a minimum wage job ($15,080 a year), would receive an EITC credit of $5,372 a year. In 2011, families with kids got an extra $240 a month on average.[9]

The EITC receives widespread support because it is only for people who work, and because it helps these

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR A SINGLE PARENT WITH TWO KIDS

Tax credit compared with household wage income[10,11]



people move out of poverty. According to recent studies, the EITC helped 6.27 million Americans (or about three times the population of Arkansas) climb out of poverty. The EITC also kept 3.187 million children out of poverty in 2012. But those are national numbers, what about Arkansas? About 71,000 Arkansans (including 37,000 children) were helped out of poverty in 2012 by the EITC alone.[12] The success and bipartisan support of state-level EITCs make this credit a clear choice for helping hard-working Arkansans.

EITCS HELP EVERYONE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T QUALIFY

Another benefit of the EITC is its positive impact on local economies. Low-income families spend EITC refunds on items they need. This spending boosts local businesses, creates jobs, and increases state and local tax revenue.[13] A San Antonio study found that every dollar of EITC refunds created $1.58 in total economic activity, and every $37,000 added a permanent job. A study in Baltimore found an even higher economic boost from the EITC; $1.66 in total economic activity for every EITC dollar.[14] In 2013, 306,000 Arkansans received at total of about $747 million in federal EITC money.[15] Just imagine the impact those dollars had on our state economy.

The average EITC in Arkansas has gone up from just under $2,000 in 2004 to around $2,500 in 2012. For many struggling to make ends meet, the refund can be a lifesaver.[16] Unfortunately, many eligible families do not claim this valuable tax credit.[17] The IRS estimates that about 20 percent of eligible Arkansans do not apply for the credit. Even though more than a quarter of Arkansas taxpayers filed for an EITC in 2012, many folks don't know that they qualify.[18] Hard-working Arkansans who don't claim their credits aren't the only ones missing out. If the credits go unclaimed, local businesses don't get the extra boost from families spending their EITC money. Free services like the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program help raise awareness about the EITC, but struggling families still leave around $200 million in unclaimed federal EITC dollars on the table each year.[19] A state level EITC would help increase awareness and contribute to the total sum of EITC dollars boosting our economy.

A SUCCESSFUL EITC IN ARKANSAS NEEDS TO BE SUBSTANTIAL AND REFUNDABLE

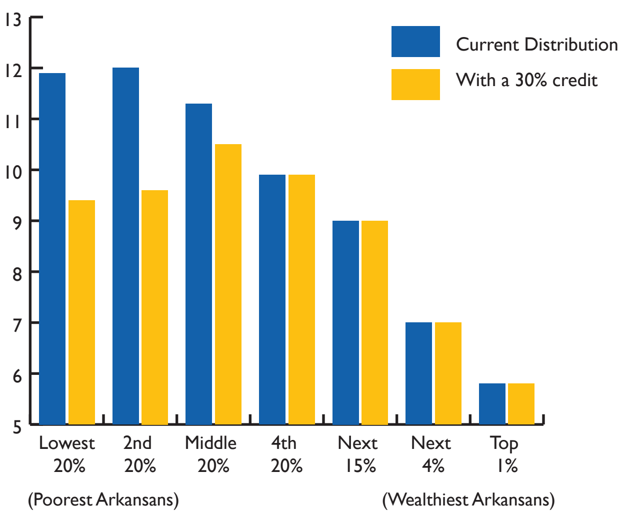
A successful state EITC must be substantial and "refundable." The amount that a taxpayer receives for a state level EITC is simply a percentage of the Federal EITC. For example, if you live in Virginia, where the state EITC is 20 percent, a Federal EITC credit of $1000 would come with a 20 percent or $200 state EITC refund. State EITC rates range from 3.5 percent in Louisiana, all the way up to 40 percent of the federal EITC in Washington DC.[20] The current average among states that use EITCs is 16 percent; this would be a good goal for Arkansas.

It is also crucial that state ETICs are refundable. Non-refundable credits only allow taxpayers to offset their income tax. Arkansas workers living in extreme poverty don't owe enough income tax to get anything back unless the EITC is refundable. A non-refundable EITC would do nothing to offset the hefty share these workers pay in sales and property taxes.

A new report released from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy shows that a state-level EITC would reduce the unfair burden placed the poorest taxpayers in Arkansas (the report shows the impacts of refundable state EITCs at 16, 20, 30, 40 and 50 percent of the federal level).[21] The graph below compares the current Arkansas tax structure, where the poorest Arkansans pay a much higher share in taxes, to one with a 30 percent refundable tax credit. The 30 percent refundable EITC helps level the playing field. Upping the credit to 50 percent of the federal amount would make an even more dramatic improvement. A 50 percent state EITC would shrink the tax rate advantage between the very rich and the poorest Arkansans from six percentage points to less than two percentage points.[22]

WITH EITC, POOREST ARKANSANS DON'T PAY THE HIGHEST SHARE OF TAXES

Percent of income paid in state and local taxes currently, and with a 30 percent EITC.

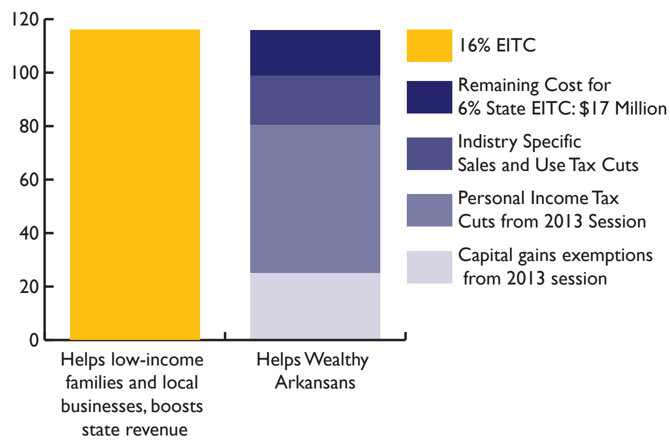


How much would an Arkansas EITC cost? Creating a 16 percent refundable tax credit would cost the state treasury about $116 million per year.[23,24] At that level, families would receive an average of about $400 in tax relief every year. It's time to ask more from high-income earners who see millions in tax cuts even while paying a much lower share of taxes than the poorest Arkansans.

In 2013 legislative session, lawmakers passed a series of tax cuts that will cost $141 million in state general revenue in fiscal year 2016. Most of those tax cuts heavily favor wealthy Arkansans. Three of the most expensive were cuts to the personal income tax, capital gains tax exemptions, and industry specific sales and use tax cuts. These three tax cuts alone cost the state enough money to fund 85 percent of a state EITC (at the 16 percent level). Instead of giving money to the already wealthy, legislators should be helping working families find permanent paths out of poverty.

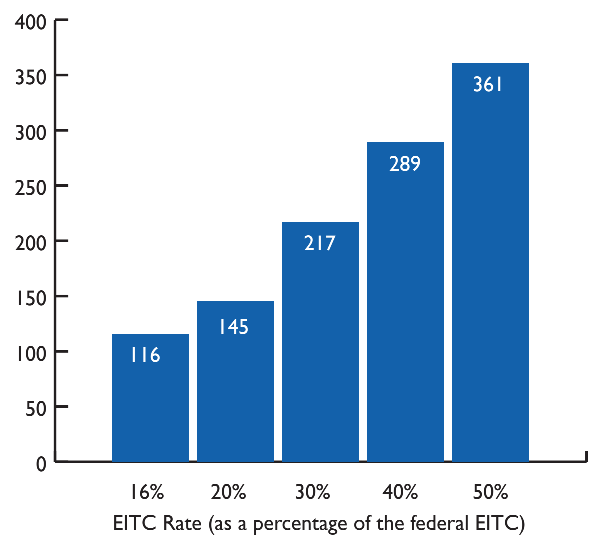
LET'S MAKE A TRADE

A 16% EITC costs about as much as two tax cuts that only help high-income Arkansans



POTENTIAL LEVELS OF EITC IN ARKANSAS

And the associated cost, in millions



GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS: RISKY REFUND PRODUCTS ARE LESS POPULAR, BUT PERSIST IN POOR COMMUNITIES

When you file your tax return, you have few options for how to get your refund. The best option is free; just wait a couple weeks for a direct payment from the IRS. Many low-income families are in a hurry to pay off bills and choose high-cost and risky refund anticipation products instead. The worst one is a high-interest loan called a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL), which gets you an immediate check based on an estimate of your tax return. RALs are similar in concept to predatory payday advance loans. If the borrowers tax return comes in lower than expected, they could end up facing a debt with sky-high interest rates.

Major US banks stopped offering the RAL option in 2013. Unfortunately, another harmful option, Revenue Anticipation Checks (RACs), soon replaced the RAL. RACs are not refund loans, so you don't get your money right away, but you do get to put off any tax preparation fees until your refund comes in. The problem with RACs is that they are often riddled with "junk fees" and charge outrageous interest rates.[25] People end up paying a lot of money to put off a fee for a few weeks. Many filers don't know they could avoid these costs by depositing their refund into a prepaid card or an existing bank account.[26] These unfair practices target low-income workers who need this money the most, and who use this method to defer tax preparation fees at triple digit interest rates. In 2013, 84 percent of RAC filers were low-income.[27]

In 2009, the Arkansas legislature passed the Refund Anticipation Loan Act, which makes it harder for lenders to profit from deceptive loans. This act applies to both RALs and RACs, and it requires creditors to clearly post fees. The act also requires lenders to tell tax filers that they can get their refund in a few weeks without paying any extra fees or taking out a loan.[28] Filers are more likely to understand and avoid refund anticipation costs because of this law. Early payment options are less popular now than in 2005, but about half of EITC filers still choose them.

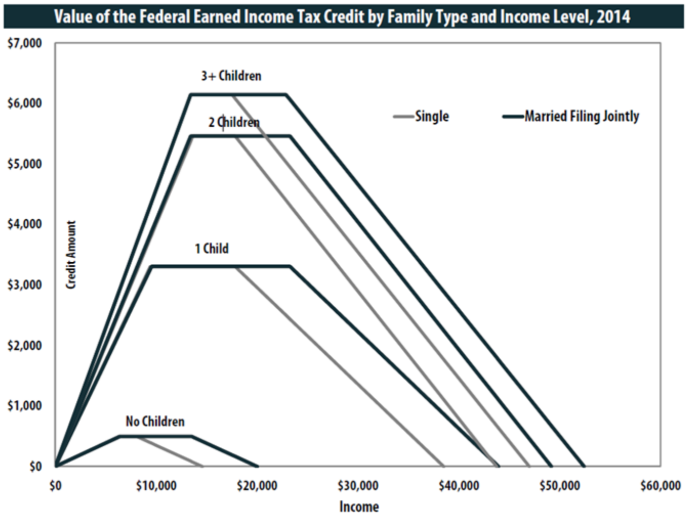
CONCLUSION

The EITC is an effective tool with a history of increasing employment among parents, supporting the economy, and promoting a stable environment for kids. Enacting an Arkansas EITC would improve the lives of our poorest workers and their children. We know that EITCs encourage parents to enter the workforce or increase their work hours. We also know that when working families keep more of what they earn, they strengthen local communities. Other states have seen a real advantage to having a state-level EITC, and it's time for that kind of success story to come to Arkansas.

NOTES

[1] http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05000.html
[2] http://www.aecf.org/resources/2011-kids-count-data-book/
[3] http://www.aradvocates.org/assets/PDFs/Tax-and-budget/A-Better-Foundation.pdf
[4] http://www.cbpp.org/files/policybasics-eitc.pdf
[5] "EITC Attracts Bipartisan Praise and Proposals" crfb.org/blogs/eitc-attracts-bipartisan-praise-and-proposals
[6] http://apps.cbpp.org/3-5-14tax/?state=AR
[7] Jennie Romich and Thomas S. Weisner, "How Families View and Use the Earned Income Tax Credit: Advance Payment Versus Lump-Sum Delivery," in B. Meyer and D. Holtz-Eakin, eds
[8] "The Earned Income Tax Credit: Facts, Statistics and Context" bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/2013/06/earned-income-tax-credit-facts-statistics-and-context
[9] http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=2505
[10] http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=2505

Value of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit by Family Type and Income Level, 2014



[11] CBPP report "Improving Tax Fairness with a State Earned Income Tax Credit" 2014
[12] "An Anti-Poverty Policy that Works for Working Families"http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2014/02/11-anti-poverty-policy-working-families-knee-bone-williams
[13] http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Research/Files/Blogs/2014/02/11%20eitc/EITC_CTC%20State%20Table.pdf
[14] http://www.ubalt.edu/jfi/jfi/reports/EITC-rept.pdf
[15] http://www.eitc.irs.gov/EITC-Central/eitcstats
[16] AACF analysis of IRS SPEC office data for TY 2012.
[17] http://www.eitc.irs.gov/EITC-Central/Participation-Rate
[18] AACF analysis of IRS SPEC office data for TY 2012
[19] http://www.unitedwaynwa.org/blog-entry/25-01-2013/vitaeitc
[20] http://www.itep.org/pdf/eitc2014.pdf
[21] http://www.itep.org/pdf/eitc2014.pdf]
[22] ITEP
[23] Or $145 million for 20 percent, $217 million for 30percent, $289 million for 40 percent, and $361 million for 50 percent
[24] ITEP "Improving Tax Fairness with a State Earned Income Tax Credit" 2014
[25] http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/high_cost_small_loans/ral/rpt_tax_time_products_22814.pdf
[26] http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/high_cost_small_loans/ral/rpt_tax_time_products_22814.pdf
[27] http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/high_cost_small_loans/ral/rpt_tax_time_products_22814.pdf
[28] ftp://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/acts/2009/Public/ACT1402.pdf

County	All Tax Returns	EITC Returns	Percent of Returns using EITC	Total Dollar amount of EITC returns	Average EITC returns	EITC Returns using refund anticipation products	Percent of EITC Returns using refund anticipation products	All Tax Returns Requesting refund anticipation products	Percent of all Returns using refund anticipation products
Arkansas	7,396	2,034	27.5%	$5,106,868.00	$2,510.75	1,192	58.6%	1,999	27.0%
Ashley	8,228	2,536	30.8%	$6,620,130.00	$2,610.46	1,652	65.1%	2,654	32.3%
Baxter	15,900	3,441	21.6%	$7,626,281.00	$2,216.30	1,376	40.0%	2,260	14.2%
Benton	88,364	17,170	19.4%	$41,465,541.00	$2,415.00	7,059	41.1%	13,713	15.5%
Boone	14,896	3,742	25.1%	$8,762,698.00	$2,341.72	1,607	42.9%	2,717	18.2%
Bradley	4,091	1,358	33.2%	$3,514,391.00	$2,587.92	700	51.5%	1,110	27.1%
Calhoun	1,504	399	26.5%	$957,408.00	$2,399.52	237	59.4%	394	26.2%
Carroll	10,531	2,863	27.2%	$6,738,237.00	$2,353.56	1,262	44.1%	2,023	19.2%
Chicot	4,022	1,675	41.6%	$4,736,662.00	$2,827.86	886	52.9%	1,249	31.1%
Clark	8,561	2,361	27.6%	$5,843,742.00	$2,475.11	1,326	56.2%	2,115	24.7%
Clay	5,845	1,531	26.2%	$3,565,334.00	$2,328.76	666	43.5%	1,161	19.9%
Cleburne	9,878	2,128	21.5%	$4,745,186.00	$2,229.88	1,013	47.6%	1,955	19.8%
Cleveland	2,842	748	26.3%	$1,857,588.00	$2,483.41	388	51.9%	645	22.7%
Columbia	8,961	2,642	29.5%	$6,679,128.00	$2,528.06	1,398	52.9%	2,297	25.6%
Conway	7,687	1,876	24.4%	$4,577,551.00	$2,440.06	769	41.0%	1,339	17.4%
Craighead	38,212	10,109	26.5%	$25,347,119.00	$2,507.38	5,559	55.0%	9,186	24.0%
Crawford	22,617	6,120	27.1%	$15,142,519.00	$2,474.27	2,775	45.3%	4,748	21.0%
Crittenden	19,648	8,225	41.9%	$24,168,282.00	$2,938.39	5,409	65.8%	7,698	39.2%
Cross	6,704	2,340	34.9%	$6,094,002.00	$2,604.27	1,451	62.0%	2,100	31.3%
Dallas	2,905	1,007	34.7%	$2,570,342.00	$2,552.47	589	58.5%	864	29.7%
Desha	5,118	1,888	36.9%	$5,179,343.00	$2,743.30	1,146	60.7%	1,715	33.5%
Drew	6,418	2,017	31.4%	$5,273,233.00	$2,614.39	1,130	56.0%	1,696	26.4%
Faulkner	43,156	9,109	21.1%	$21,515,725.00	$2,362.03	4,264	46.8%	8,305	19.2%
Franklin	6,391	1,677	26.2%	$4,118,279.00	$2,455.74	655	39.1%	1,059	16.6%
Fulton	3,677	989	26.9%	$2,252,027.00	$2,277.07	319	32.3%	530	14.4%
Garland	42,954	10,417	24.3%	$24,793,443.00	$2,380.09	4,716	45.3%	7,611	17.7%
Grant	6,330	1,411	22.3%	$3,308,698.00	$2,344.93	716	50.7%	1,447	22.9%
Greene	15,732	4,119	26.2%	$9,620,567.00	$2,335.66	2,337	56.7%	4,045	25.7%
Hempstead	7,488	2,733	36.5%	$7,394,567.00	$2,705.66	1,639	60.0%	2,486	33.2%
Hot Spring	11,257	3,118	27.7%	$7,521,189.00	$2,412.18	1,350	43.3%	2,334	20.7%
Howard	5,719	1,892	33.1%	$4,828,043.00	$2,551.82	1,034	54.7%	1,587	27.7%
Independence	13,290	3,291	24.8%	$7,779,437.00	$2,363.85	1,494	45.4%	2,624	19.7%
Izard	4,493	1,189	26.5%	$2,724,297.00	$2,291.25	423	35.6%	725	16.1%
Jackson	5,101	1,615	31.7%	$3,873,803.00	$2,398.64	919	56.9%	1,398	27.4%
Jefferson	29,369	10,189	34.7%	$27,569,541.00	$2,705.81	5,718	56.1%	9,096	31.0%
Johnson	8,849	2,738	30.9%	$7,018,252.00	$2,563.28	1,029	37.6%	1,647	18.6%
Lafayette	2,346	898	38.3%	$2,310,030.00	$2,572.42	553	61.6%	843	35.9%
Lawrence	6,500	1,923	29.6%	$4,679,446.00	$2,433.41	787	40.9%	1,286	19.8%

County	All Tax Returns	EITC Returns	Percent of Returns using EITC	Total Dollar amount of EITC returns	Average EITC returns	EITC Returns using refund anticipation products	Percent of EITC Returns using refund anticipation products	All Tax Returns Requesting refund anticipation products	Percent of all Returns using refund anticipation products
Lee	2,735	1,206	44.1%	$3,515,596.00	$2,915.09	775	64.3%	1,020	37.3%
Lincoln	3,564	1,143	32.1%	$2,963,335.00	$2,592.59	630	55.1%	976	27.4%
Little River	4,783	1,317	27.5%	$3,271,160.00	$2,483.80	717	54.4%	1,275	26.7%
Logan	8,285	2,344	28.3%	$5,848,121.00	$2,494.93	1,013	43.2%	1,606	19.4%
Lonoke	27,493	6,076	22.1%	$14,476,930.00	$2,382.64	2,726	44.9%	5,173	18.8%
Madison	5,642	1,566	27.8%	$3,794,978.00	$2,423.36	595	38.0%	962	17.1%
Marion	5,318	1,428	26.9%	$3,229,866.00	$2,261.81	612	42.9%	977	18.4%
Miller	16,236	5,020	30.9%	$12,870,738.00	$2,563.89	2,748	54.7%	4,507	27.8%
Mississippi	17,034	6,461	37.9%	$17,142,400.00	$2,653.21	3,868	59.9%	5,762	33.8%
Monroe	2,932	1,041	35.5%	$2,738,294.00	$2,630.45	559	53.7%	871	29.7%
Montgomery	2,586	704	27.2%	$1,668,858.00	$2,370.54	268	38.1%	438	16.9%
Nevada	3,341	1,098	32.9%	$2,902,374.00	$2,643.33	632	57.6%	1,011	30.3%
Newton	2,741	843	30.8%	$1,957,079.00	$2,321.56	229	27.2%	385	14.0%
Ouachita	9,697	3,051	31.5%	$7,593,328.00	$2,488.80	1,745	57.2%	2,588	26.7%
Perry	4,027	986	24.5%	$2,358,243.00	$2,391.73	404	41.0%	685	17.0%
Phillips	7,158	3,373	47.1%	$10,366,683.00	$3,073.43	2,005	59.4%	2,569	35.9%
Pike	3,742	1,067	28.5%	$2,714,039.00	$2,543.62	528	49.5%	835	22.3%
Poinsett	8,629	2,984	34.6%	$7,524,503.00	$2,521.62	1,888	63.3%	2,733	31.7%
Polk	7,075	2,073	29.3%	$5,139,075.00	$2,479.05	952	45.9%	1,518	21.5%
Pope	23,394	5,876	25.1%	$13,737,550.00	$2,337.91	2,310	39.3%	4,305	18.4%
Prairie	2,750	808	29.4%	$1,950,653.00	$2,414.17	440	54.5%	679	24.7%
Pulaski	162,328	40,306	24.8%	$100,248,708.00	$2,487.19	20,725	51.4%	35,547	21.9%
Randolph	6,001	1,803	30.0%	$4,317,495.00	$2,394.62	579	32.1%	897	14.9%
Saline	43,930	8,674	19.7%	$20,291,960.00	$2,339.40	3,481	40.1%	7,242	16.5%
Scott	4,020	1,284	31.9%	$3,410,978.00	$2,656.52	605	47.1%	933	23.2%
Searcy	2,864	926	32.3%	$2,069,337.00	$2,234.71	351	37.9%	613	21.4%
Sebastian	48,033	13,076	27.2%	$32,477,711.00	$2,483.76	5,795	44.3%	9,504	19.8%
Sevier	5,647	1,899	33.6%	$5,044,456.00	$2,656.37	927	48.8%	1,471	26.0%
Sharp	6,702	1,936	28.9%	$4,599,356.00	$2,375.70	787	40.7%	1,172	17.5%
St. Francis	9,123	4,071	44.6%	$11,823,806.00	$2,904.40	2,571	63.2%	3,438	37.7%
Stone	3,921	1,172	29.9%	$2,794,157.00	$2,384.09	480	41.0%	708	18.1%
Union	16,355	4,854	29.7%	$12,517,867.00	$2,578.88	2,769	57.0%	4,293	26.2%
Van Buren	6,411	1,520	23.7%	$3,463,026.00	$2,278.31	719	47.3%	1,282	20.0%
Washington	83,509	20,236	24.2%	$50,037,387.00	$2,472.69	8,792	43.4%	15,918	19.1%
White	29,240	7,206	24.6%	$17,459,467.00	$2,422.91	3,541	49.1%	6,407	21.9%
Woodruff	2,657	957	36.0%	$2,368,743.00	$2,475.18	511	53.4%	737	27.7%
Yell	7,851	2,402	30.6%	$6,201,144.00	$2,581.66	858	35.7%	1,484	18.9%
Statewide	**1,120,734**	**298,305**	**26.6%**	**$744,768,330.00**	**$2,496.67**	**146,678**	**49.2%**	**245,182**	**21.9%**

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The mission of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is to ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives and to realize their full potential.

We serve as a voice for children at the Arkansas State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.; gather and analyze data to support public policy that serves all children and families; and organize coalitions of diverse groups to drive change.

Find out more at www.aradvocates.org.