

Our Mission

The Center for Economic Progress helps hard-working, low-income families move from financial uncertainty to financial security.

Local in service, but national in voice, we achieve our mission in three ways:

- We provide trusted tax and financial counseling, giving Illinois families the tools to make sound choices.
- We lead a national coalition of organizations that promote economic progress for low-wage workers and their families.
- We advance policies and practices to create a financial system that works for all.

Our Vision

The Center for Economic Progress envisions an America of shared prosperity, where *all* working families can access the financial opportunities they need to succeed.

Our History

The Center for Economic Progress was founded in 1990 by Michael O'Connor, and is currently led by David Marzahl. In the past 20 years, we've served more than 230,000 families, returning \$340 million in refunds—more than any other organization of our kind. In 2009 alone, our 1,200-member volunteer corps helped put \$52 million back into the pockets of more than 33,000 Illinois families and their communities.

Our Staff

The Center has 50 dedicated, full-time staff members working out of our offices Chicago and Springfield. We also employ dozens of seasonal staff who work in communities throughout the state of Illinois. Our highly skilled staff members include accountants, attorneys and other experts who can speak on tax and financial issues affecting low-wage workers and their families.

Our Volunteers

Every year, more than 1,000 dedicated volunteers help return tens of millions of dollars to hard-working, low-income families and their communities.

Our Coalition

The Center leads the National Community Tax Coalition (NCTC), a national coalition of tax programs that serve nearly one million low-income taxpayers across the country. Learn more about NCTC by visiting www.tax-coalition.org.

Contact Us

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