

Our Organization

- In 2010, the Center for Economic Progress will be celebrating **20 years** of providing working solutions for working families.
- The Center operates over **30 tax sites** in the Chicagoland area and across the state of Illinois.
- Our services are free to individuals making **\$25,000 or less** and families of two or more making **\$50,000 or less**.
- Most of our sites are open from **January 23-April 15, 2010**.

Our Clients

- Our typical client receives a **\$1,900** tax refund—likely the largest infusion of cash they will see all year.
- Since our founding in **1990**, we've served more than **230,000 families**, returning **\$340 million** in refunds—more than any other organization of our kind.
- In 2009, we helped connect **1,700** families to safe and sound financial products to help them make the most of their tax refund.
- In 2009, we helped nearly **800** students fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and find their path to college.

Our Volunteers

- During the 2009 tax season, more than **1,200** volunteers contributed **37,000** hours preparing tax returns, counseling clients on their tax situations and connecting them to financial services to save them money.

What We're Up Against

- The average American family has approximately **\$8,300** in debt and four credit cards. A family's tax refund can help them get out of this bad debt and begin to save.
- Alternative financial services can cost low-wage workers **up to 10%** of their income of the course of a year.
- Nearly one in five low-wage workers eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)—the most valuable credit available to them—don't claim it, largely because they don't know they could.
- In the state of Illinois, there are more predatory lenders than there are McDonald's restaurants.

Contact Us

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