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# Sacramento County IHSS Public Authority Caring Matters

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## Emergency Preparedness



Are you prepared for an emergency? First, be sure to familiarize yourself with what types of disasters could affect your area, which could call for an evacuation or shelter in place. Next, make a plan. Determine any special assistance you may need, and include it in your emergency plan.

Here are some considerations when creating your emergency plan:

- 1. Create a support network** of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency, and share your disaster plans with them. Practice your plan with them. Make sure they have an extra key to your home, know where you keep your emergency supplies and how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medicine.
- 2. Share copies of your relevant emergency documents**, evacuation plans and emergency health information card.
- 3. Agree on and practice methods for contacting each other in an emergency.** Do not count on telephones working, including cellular phones.
- 4. If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital**, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.
- 5. If you have a communication-related disability**, not the best way to communicate with you.
- 6. Don't forget your pets or service animals.** Not all shelters accept pets, so plan for alternatives, including preparing an emergency kit for your pet.
- 7. Get your benefits electronically.** A disaster can disrupt mail service for days

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### In This Issue

- Emergency Preparedness
- Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Information
- Upcoming FREE Classes

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### IHSS Public Authority



Welcome to the new IHSS Public Authority Newsletter!  
We welcome your suggestions for content or general feedback.

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### Contact us

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or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic deposits is a simple way to protect yourself. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks.

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## Do you know about the Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credit?



### EITC Facts:

#### Why the EITC is so important:

- The EITC is one of the most effective tools in America to lift families out of poverty
- Last year, the Cal EITC put almost \$200 Million directly into the hands of 400,000 working Californians
- The Federal EITC delivers over \$7 Billion to low-income Californians every year
- Research shows children whose families receive a boost in income from EITC perform better in school and have better health.
- The EITC enjoys wide bipartisan support for encouraging work and continued employment
- Families use the EITC to buy shoes, put food on the table, pay bills, and cover basic needs for their kids
- Governor Brown described the CalEITC as one of his most important achievements

#### Why EITC Outreach and Education Matters:

- Every year California leaves \$2 Billion of unclaimed EITC money on the table
- Research suggests outreach around state level EITC's increase uptake of the Federal EITC.
- About one-third of the EITC eligible population turns over each year
- Workers move into and out of eligibility based on changes in their marital, parental and financial status
- Three out of five who receive the credit use it temporarily, for one or two years
- You must claim the credit to receive it. Over 50,000 working people filed California taxes last year and failed to claim the credit
- Many people who qualify for the credit and are eligible for up to \$6,000 fail to simply file taxes because they make below the required income threshold

Please visit <http://caleitc4me.org> for more information about the California Earned Income Tax Credit and

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit> for additional information on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

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## Upcoming FREE Classes

IHSS Public Authority regularly holds classes on a variety of subjects related to caregiving! All classes are open to both Providers and Recipients, and are held on Thursday evenings as scheduled below. Classes begin at 5:30pm and end by 7:30pm. All classes are held at 3701 Branch Center Road, unless otherwise specified. Take a look at some upcoming classes:

**March 8th - Community Resources to the Rescue\***. Presented by Jeff Parker of Shields Healthcare, this class will focus on how Shields can be of help to Providers and Recipients, including the various medical products covered under Medi-Cal.

**March 22nd - Overview of ACC services.** Presented by Susan Sarinas of ACC, this class will focus on the services offered by ACC, a non-profit agency that provides services such as transportation, Meals on Wheels, caregiver support, care assessments and home safety checks.

\* **Indicates Core Class.** Core Classes provide information on the basic issues and skills each Provider needs to do their job safely, and helps Providers become more proficient in their work. A certification of completion is given at the end of each class, and each core class completed is noted in the Provider's profile, enhancing interviews with prospective Recipients.

**If you have questions regarding the IHSS Educational classes, please contact Mary-Ann Cowan at (916) 876-5682 or send an email to [IHSS-PA-Education@saccounty.net](mailto:IHSS-PA-Education@saccounty.net).**

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