

Make Tax Time Pay February 2006

In 2004, there were 14,917 Edmonton residents who were eligible for the Alberta Child Health Benefit (ACHB), but not collecting it. This program provides, on average \$265 per year per child for prescription drugs, dental and vision care, and emergency ambulance services – a total of nearly \$4 million in unclaimed benefits.

Investigating further, Vibrant Communities Edmonton (VCE) discovered seven other benefits, subsidies, and tax credits that often go unclaimed by eligible families. Collaborating with Canada Revenue Agency, Alberta Human Resources, and others, VCE launched Make Tax Time Pay, designed to help low-income residents access these benefits

Beginning in January 2006, the program has been promoted throughout Edmonton. From January through April, partners are operating volunteer-staffed tax assistance centres in various parts of the city. The goal is to help 500 families who are working and earning low wages receive additional benefits this year that will help them cover child care expenses, prescription drugs, dental and vision care for their children.



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