Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax policy that can be implemented at the federal, state, and local level that can help build economic stability for low income earners. Economic stability is an important driver for women and children's health, as recognized by the Health Impact in 5 Years Initiative.

In November 2021, 30 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted state-level EITC policies. Of eligible federal filers, 20% do not claim EITC, indicating a need to improve EITC policy implementation. Many state-level filers mirror or hover around this same percentage.

Leverage opportunities and mindset shifts driven by crisis.
- Develop a mindset that turns crisis into an opportunity for innovative, collaborative strategies to promote health and equity.
- Build resiliency and adaptiveness into collaborative structures.
- Proactively build capacity to adapt and innovate rapidly to reach those who are often most impacted during crises.

Take a systems approach to promoting health and equity.
- Health inequities can influence economic inequities, and vice versa, creating a vicious cycle.
- EITC and other strategies promoting economic stability can also promote health and equity.
- Addressing economic insecurity requires a systems approach and diverse perspectives.

Identify intersections with potential collaborators within and across sectors.
- EITC can be an "entry policy" for addressing social determinants of health and establishing new collaborations.
- It takes time and energy to build and sustain momentum and relationships that can be transformative for health equity.
- Clarify the functions of different actors in the systems that support EITC implementation efforts.
- Community development can be a helpful partner with public health to promote economic supports like the EITC.

Define roles collaboratively and adaptively.
- A systems view helps identify partners better positioned to lead EITC implementation efforts.
- Economic stability is an underlying driver of outcomes across public health areas of interest (e.g., chronic disease, maternal and child health, injury prevention).

Develop communication strategies to build common understanding, actions, and trust.
- Language matters when communicating about EITC and other economic stability interventions.
- Creating inclusive language, especially when communicating across sectors, can expand partnerships and intervention points.
- View EITC implementation holistically as part of policy, systems, and environmental change efforts.
- Timely and credible data is crucial to helping build buy-in to a policy intervention, but scarcity of local data is a common challenge.
- Raising awareness of EITC is important but insufficient; providing warm hand-offs to tax filing providers is a recognized strategy to boost filing.

Public Health's Role in EITC Implementation
- Front-line perspective bringing trusted relationships, including with community.
- Connector bringing a holistic perspectives on health and well-being, including economic health.
- Link to other social determinants of health initiatives.
- Convener for policy and strategy development, and a trusted source of credible data.
- Communicator developing messaging adaptable for local communities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) contracted with the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), which engaged the Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University to design and facilitate an EITC Policy Implementation Lab to build the capacity of coalitions to improve EITC uptake in their respective states. This report presents actionable, emerging insights from state coalitions and subject matter experts who participated in the EITC Policy Implementation Lab from December 2020 through May 2021.

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