

## ***Economic Empowerment Initiative***

The ***Economic Empowerment Initiative*** (EEI) is a program that empowers families and older youth in the East End of Pittsburgh and the greater Pittsburgh area to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The EEI is designed to help people gain financial skills, build economic resources and assets, and become full participants in the life of the community.

### **The EEI includes the following services:**

- ◇ Free Income Tax Preparation for Families and Individuals Eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit
- ◇ Financial Education Resources & Tools for Adults and Older Youth
- ◇ Assistance applying for Public Benefits and accessing Financial resources and Assets available in the community
- ◇ Referral to Community Resources
- ◇ Leadership & Civic Engagement Training

### **For more information, contact:**

**Supervisor, Craig Stevens:**

412-363-1702 x 2215

[cstevens@familyresourcesofpa.org](mailto:cstevens@familyresourcesofpa.org)



The Mission of Family Resources is to prevent and treat child abuse by strengthening families and neighborhoods.

### **Family Resources offers many services to help parents and children improve their relationships:**

- ◇ Parent support groups and parent education classes to help parents better manage discipline and communication in the family
- ◇ Counseling for parents, children and teens
- ◇ The Parenting WARMLINE, a free, confidential service staffed by volunteers that any parent or caregiver can call with non-medical questions about family issues. No question is too big or too small. The number is 1-800-641-4546.
- ◇ The Parental Stress Center Safe Visits Safe Families program of supervised visitation for families referred by Family Court
- ◇ The Economic Empowerment Initiative.

## ***Economic Empowerment Initiative***

***Empowering families and older youth to work toward economic self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.***

### **Family Resources**

5877 Commerce Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

(412) 363-1702

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[www.familyresourcesofpa.org](http://www.familyresourcesofpa.org)

## Financial Resources

The EEI offers **financial education resources and tools** to assist individuals and families in learning how to control your money, create and maintain a personal or household budget, and begin to save money to invest in future life goals and assets such as buying a car you need for work, pursuing higher education and training, or buying a home of your own.

EEI Staff are available to attend a meeting or workshop for your staff or your organization's clients or constituency.

### Resource Materials and Tools cover:

- Understanding your money
- Making better spending choices
- Recognizing and avoiding bad financial choices and predatory lending practices
- Using banking or credit union services to improve your financial situation
- Building a good credit record
- Obtaining assets to build a secure future
- Community resources available to you to advance your life goals and build assets.

To learn how **You** can become a part of the **Economic Empowerment Initiative**:

**Supervisor, Craig Stevens**

(412) 363-1702 x 2215

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## The Benefit Bank

Did you know that \$35 billion in public benefits go untapped every year due to the complexity, inconvenience and stigma of applying for public benefits for many Americans?

The EEI can unlock access to public benefits through **The Benefit Bank**®, an on-line service that allows you to apply directly for a wide range of public benefits (list below).



**Apply for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Child Care Subsidy, Food Stamps, PACE/PACENet, Cash and Medical Assistance, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Dollar Energy, the PA Property Tax and Rent Rebate program and Register to Vote!**

**Households with incomes under \$45,000 are eligible to use The Benefit Bank.**

- ◇ Call the EEI to learn if we can assist you.

## Free Tax Income Tax Preparation Services

- ◇ **Free federal, state and local tax preparation services for low income working families and individuals** who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the PA Tax Back program.
- ◇ Services provided January to April 15th, Tues.—Friday, 2-8 pm and Saturdays—**by Appointment only.**

**\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$**

- ◇ Family Resources is a member of the **Money in Your Pocket Campaign (MIYPC)** which is made up of local community-based organizations working in collaboration with the United Way of Allegheny County.

## Leadership Training & Civic Engagement

- ◇ Family Resources is the lead agency for the **Citizens Leadership Initiative**, a human services collaboration supporting the development of civic leaders from low income and disenfranchised communities with the goals of reducing poverty and revitalizing their community from the ground up.
- ◇ The EEI participates in other community building and civic engagement projects including voter registration.