



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Shelby Ross
Mile High United Way
Shelby.Ross@unitedwaydenver.org
303.561.2143 (o)
970.978.1733 (c)

Jen Morris
Mile High United Way
Jennifer.Morris@unitedwaydenver.org
303.561.2259 (o)
303.803.0925 (c)

Text Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center for Tax Help Thursday, February 11, 2016 is National 2-1-1 Day

DENVER, CO – February 11, 2016 – This year, the Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Help Center will play a critical role during tax season. For the first time in 15 years, more than 350,000 hard-working Colorado families will be able to take advantage of federal *and* state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) providing \$77 million in refunds– that is, if they are aware that they qualify and understand how to claim them.

To ensure that all eligible families—including active military and returning veterans—claim the EITC refunds they deserve, Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 has partnered with the Piton Foundation to increase awareness about the state and federal EITC.

In celebration of National 2-1-1 Day (February 11), Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 is now offering texting, an even easier way for people to find out if they are eligible for EITC and other tax credits, and get connected to free tax preparation help.

"Texting is one more way Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 is responding to rapidly growing community need," said Stephanie Sanchez, Director of 2-1-1 Colorado. "We know that some in our community—including residents who may have tax questions– find it difficult to place a call or access 2-1-1 online, so our new text message service gives them an alternative way to find the information they need, faster and easier than ever."

Last year, an estimated 118,000 Coloradans missed out on as much as \$257 million in federal EITC refunds because they didn't know they exist. This year, it's as easy as texting your zip code to 898-211 to find tax information.

In addition to texting, anyone can contact Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 by dialing 2-1-1, using the free downloadable app, searching the online database, or chatting with a specialist online, at unitedwaydenver/211. For more than a decade, Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 has connected over one million callers to essential, non-emergency community information and services such as health care, rent and mortgage assistance, food and shelter, job training, transportation, childcare, senior care, veteran services, in addition to free tax help.



About Mile High United Way:

Mile High United Way creates opportunities for all children, their families and individuals through our unique position at the intersection of the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors.

We are more than an organization—we are a catalyst for social change. We develop long-term solutions that ensure children are learning and reading at grade-level; young people graduate from high school ready for college or the workforce; and families and individuals have their basic needs met and are afforded every opportunity to move toward economic success.

About Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center

Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center is a free and confidential community referral service that connects people with resources that provide food, shelter, rent assistance, clothing, child care options and other types of community assistance.

Trained referral specialists are multi-lingual and available to help individuals with real-time resources in our community. Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 covers the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Summit, and has received over 1.25 million calls since 2003.