



DABC Pioneers New U.S. Savings Bond Policy ***“Impulse Saving” Option Available at Free Tax Preparation Sites***

February 16, 2010— After participating in a national three-year pilot study, the Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC) is highlighting a new federal policy option to enable taxpayers to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds when filing their federal tax returns. The Department of Treasury re-instated the option to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds on tax forms for 2010 based on pilot results generated at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites such as DABC’s sites.

“Our VITA program has been instrumental in helping low-income working families eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) claim millions of dollars over the past five years,” said John Russell, Executive Director. “Now we are offering a creative solution to enable them to easily save part of their refund and start building wealth.”

Nationwide, the U.S. Savings Pilot project, including DABC, has enabled 5,000 people in nineteen states to purchase savings bonds worth over \$650,000 between 2007 and 2009. Targeted clients were low-income families eligible for the EITC. “The average adjusted gross income (AGI) of our pilot bond buyers was less than \$19,000,” said Russell. “We were surprised and encouraged to see that even lower-income families are willing and able to save using savings bonds. Our clients averaged a little over \$200 in bond purchases. Many were new savers, with absolutely no savings before coming to our VITA site.”

DABC is operating two community tax preparation sites in Denver and Aurora. The goal of DABC tax sites is to return an additional \$5 million to working families by enabling them to claim the EITC and other credits for which they are eligible, while also saving them an estimated \$1 million in tax preparation fees. The largest VITA site in Colorado is the Trimble Free Tax SuperSite, serving nearly 3,000 clients last season.

“With solid promotion, we hope to help 10% of our clients purchase savings bonds this year,” Russell added. “DABC offers a wide range of tools, such as free e-filing, bank accounts for direct refund deposit, savings bonds, and education programs, to help low-income individuals gain economic self-sufficiency and save for the future.”

Free Tax Preparation Locations Offering Help with U.S. Savings Bonds:

King Trimble Center Free Tax SuperSite

2980 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80205
1/30/10 to 4/15/10
Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 6 pm - 8 pm
Saturdays: 9 am - 3 pm

Wells Fargo Free Tax Site

9000 E Colfax, Denver, CO 80010
1/30/10 to 4/10/10
Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm

Come early. No appointments are necessary.