

Learning how taxes work is a **smart choice** that can help you reach your goals.

Here are some ideas to help you make **smart choices**...

IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER WITH CHILDREN

Do you pay for childcare for your child under 13 who lives with you?

YOU MAY QUALIFY for the *Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses*. You can take a credit of up to **\$2,100** for childcare expenses. If you earned \$25,000 and paid \$2,000 for childcare, you **lower your tax by \$600**.

Do you claim a child as a dependent who is under 17?

YOU MAY QUALIFY for the *Child Tax Credit*. A credit of **\$1,000 per child** can be used to lower your tax. If you don't owe any tax, you may be able to turn the Child Tax Credit into the *Additional Child Tax Credit* and **get the \$1,000 in your refund**.

Do you claim your child who lives with you who is under 19? (or under 24 and a full-time student?)

YOU MAY QUALIFY for the *Earned Income Credit*. A credit of **up to \$3,043** (with one child) or **\$5,028** (two children), or **\$5,657** (3 children) is refundable to you based on how much income you have.

Do you help pay for college for your child who is under 24 and a full-time student?

YOU MAY QUALIFY for one of the *Education Credits*. You can get a credit of up to **\$2,500 with up to \$1,000 refundable**.

Ask at this **free tax site** about other resources to help you make **smart choices** about tax planning, or contact:

1-800-TAX-1040

www.irs.gov

www.thebeehive.org

All Smart Choices tips can be found at www.Mass211.org

All figures are based on 2009 tables, and are subject to change.

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