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For Immediate Release

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COLUSA-GLENN-TRINITY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP: BRINGING \$ INTO OUR COMMUNITIES

Earned Income Tax Credit Dollars Help Sustain our Local Communities

Keeping dollars in our local communities is a key element in sustaining regional economic growth. The Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership has taken a proactive approach to increase the amount of money flowing into the communities of these three counties by encouraging and assisting low-income families to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) that was launched by the CGTCAP in 20XX.

\$50,000 in funding was recently awarded by the state of California to the Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership to increase utilization of the Earned Income tax Credit (EITC) in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties through expansion of the VITA Program. Millions of dollars go unclaimed each year in California due to underutilization of the EITC, a tax credit available to qualifying low-income families. This fact is due to a lack of awareness among the low-income population of the benefits of the EITC and uncertainty about the application process and who may qualify for this important benefit.

Low-income families in Colusa, Glenn and Trinity Counties can receive information and tax assistance through the VITA program, including assistance in completing and filing EITC and other tax forms. VITA is operated by a local non-profit organization, Glenn Communities Working Together [GCWT], during the months of December through April each year and plans to increase the number of active VITA sites by X in the 2009/10 tax year. Human Resource Agency Interim Director, Scott Gruendl, is excited about the expansion of the program stating, "The VITA Program puts more money into the hands of our residents through the EITC, resulting in a ripple effect that benefits the entire community, and the help of Pastor Phil Zabell [Executive Director of GCWT] in overseeing the VITA Program has been invaluable." The CGTCAP works diligently with GCWT to leverage funding dollars through programs such as VITA and it is estimated that \$XXX,000 are brought into the local area each year through the EITC.

The Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership was formed in 1992 when it joined forces with the Glenn County Human Resource Agency to provide administrative oversight. A wide variety of services in addition to the VITA program are offered through the CGTCAP, including housing rehabilitation, emergency shelter, victim assistance and food banks, among others.

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For more information about VITA or any of the other programs available through the CGTCAP and the Human Resource Agency, please contact: XXXXXXXXX