

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ getting everything you're entitled to

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on February 17, 2009. Although most of its provisions won't apply until you file your 2009 return next year, here are some things you should know about now.



For more information about the ARRA go to www.hrblock.com and click on Tax Tips.

Putting money in your pocket this year:

- **Making Work Pay Credit.** A credit of up to \$400 (\$800 if you file a joint return). Employees will begin benefitting from this credit through a reduction in their federal income tax withholding.
- **Economic Recovery Payment.** If you're an adult and received Social Security, Railroad Retirement, VA retirement or disability benefits, in November or December 2008 or January 2009, you'll receive a check for \$250 in 2009. It's not taxable, and you don't have to file a return to get it.
- **Benefits for the unemployed.** If you're unemployed, you can expect a higher benefit. Also, the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits is tax free. Individuals involuntarily terminated between 9/1/2008 – 12/31/2009 are eligible for federally-subsidized COBRA premiums for up to nine months.

For families:

- **Earned income credit.** If you file a joint return and/or if you have three or more children, you'll see your EIC may be higher when you file next year.
- **Child tax credit.** You may be eligible for a refundable credit next year if your earned income is greater than \$3,000.

For homeowners:

- **First-time home buyer credit.** If you bought your first home in 2009, you may be eligible for a refundable credit of up to \$8,000, and the credit does not have to be repaid unless the home is sold or is no longer your main home within three years of purchase. You can claim the 2009 first-time home buyer on your 2008 or 2009 return.
- **Energy credits.** The credit for energy efficient home improvements—such as new windows, doors, furnaces, and central air conditioners—is back for 2009. The credit is now up to \$1,500.



✔ Your taxes are done. Were they done correctly?

We found errors on 87% of returns prepared by others. Let us see how much we can find for you.*

Second Look® review, only \$29

*Error rates are for Second Look clients in calendar year 2007. Individual results will vary. Fees apply for Second Look reviews, and if you have us prepare a corrected or amended return. At participating locations. ©2009 H&R Block Services, Inc.



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