

As always, we are encouraged by the great work you are tackling in your communities with the various initiatives addressing financial stability (EITC initiatives, tax return assistance, financial education, etc.) We hope that in sharing this information, you will be more informed of new ways you can support the programs in your area. The following are resources and helpful suggestions in response to your comments on the survey:

RESOURCES

What is the 'Bank On' Program?

This is a statewide initiative to help all Texans acquire basic savings and checking accounts. Capital Area United Way has an information webpage about their current **Bank On** program. You can visit the site here:

http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/our_work/financial_stability/bank_on_central_texas.php

Where can I find information on Small Dollar Loans and VITA sites?

The FDIC offers an article on **Small Dollar Loans** here:

http://www.fdic.gov/bank/analytical/quarterly/2008_vol2_3/smalldollar.pdf.

The IRS offers information on **VITA sites** here:

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html>.

How can I tell if my city has payday lending ordinances?

Most **cities post their ordinances online**; check out your city government's website for more information!

BEST PRACTICES

<u>Use Community Partners</u>	<u>Promote Your Initiatives</u>
Local universities, banks, city governments, community organizations, faith based groups, large corporations with charitable arms or departments, other non-profit groups, and the IRS	Co-host a press conference with a local government official, create a brochure to distribute at grocery stores and in front of payday lenders, utilize 2-1-1, add promotions and information on your website, partner with the electric company to insert information into monthly bills

POLICY/ADVOCACY/LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

We continue to engage the state government in legislation that will in turn assist our members to make *Texas a better place to live and do business*. To that end, we would like to share with you our legislative agenda regarding Financial Stability, Asset Management and Income in Texas:

- Create Incentives for Participation in State-Supported College Savings Plans
- Promote Financial Stability Among Texas Seniors
- Increase Utilization of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit

These action items were created to speak to the kind of initiatives you have ongoing in your area, and promote legislation that fosters success for Texas communities. For more information on how to get engaged in advocacy efforts in your community please contact Jason Sabo at Jason.Sabo@uwtexas.org.