

PLANNING YOUR RETIREMENT

IF YOU EVER FEEL YOUR FINANCES ARE TOO STRETCHED TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT, YOU'RE NOT ALONE—BUT THERE COULD BE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU TO SAVE AND MAY REDUCE YOUR TAXES TO HELP YOU DO SO. THROUGH THE SAVER'S CREDIT, YOU COULD CUT YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHEN YOU SAVE THROUGH A FOUR-OH-ONE-KAY, FOUR-OH-THREE-BEE OR AN INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT—AN I-R-A. YET ONLY ONE IN THREE AMERICAN WORKERS IS EVEN AWARE THIS CREDIT EXISTS. ACCORDING TO CATHERINE COLLINSON, PRESIDENT OF NONPROFIT TRANSAMERICA CENTER FOR RETIREMENT STUDIES: [BEGIN *SOUND BITE*] **"IF ELIGIBLE, YOU CAN SUBTRACT THIS TAX CREDIT FROM WHAT YOU WOULD OWE ON YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAXES."** [END *SOUND BITE*] TO FURTHER BOOST YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS, SHE ADVISES, CONSIDER HAVING ANY REFUND YOU GET DEPOSITED DIRECTLY INTO AN I-R-A. YOU MAY ALSO QUALIFY FOR THE FREE FILE PROGRAM. IT PROVIDES TAX PREPARATION SOFTWARE AT NO COST TO YOU. LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SAVER'S CREDIT AT TRANS-AMERICA-CENTER--DOT--ORG AND I-R-S--DOT--GOV.