Wi$e Up Teleconference Call
February 28, 2007
Tax Saving Strategies
Opening remarks – Cynthia Dawkins

Coordinator: Good afternoon, and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. During the question and answer session, you may press *1 on your touchtone phone. Today’s conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time.

I will turn over the meeting to Ms. Cynthia Dawkins.

Ma’am, you may begin.

Cynthia Dawkins: Thank you, Debbie.

Welcome to the first in the series of Wi$e Up Teleconference Calls for 2007.

The Women’s Bureau is proud to be kicking off the fourth consecutive year of Wi$e Up Teleconference Calls.

For those of you who are first-time listeners, these teleconference calls are a component of the Wi$e Up financial education demonstration project. The Wi$e Up project consists of a curriculum offered online and in a classroom setting, with an e-mentoring component. Eight of the Women’s Bureau’s regions participate in this project.

My name is Cynthia Dawkins, and I am one of the Wi$e Up team members here in the National Office.
Jane Walstedt of the National Office and Regional Administrator Beverly Lyle from Region VI co-chair the Wi$e Up team.

Before we begin, I’d like to take a moment to thank Director Shinae Chun for her leadership role in the Women’s Bureau and for her continued support of the Wi$e Up project.

The theme for today’s call is Tax Saving Strategies. And what better time to learn to about these strategies than during America Saves Week?

America Saves Week is being held the week of February 25 to March 4, 2007. Its purpose is to focus greater attention on the need and opportunities for personal savings.

America Saves Week was created by America Saves, a nationwide campaign in which a broad coalition of non-profit, corporate, and government groups helps individuals and families save and build wealth.

The campaign was launched in 2001 and has spread to more than 50 localities around the country. America Saves Week is supported by hundreds of organizations in 25 states.

For more information on tax saving strategies, building an emergency fund, saving for a home, paying down debt, and other related topics on America Saves Week, you can visit www.americasaves.org.

We have a panel of three excellent speakers on today’s call. They will help us learn what to do throughout the year to accumulate tax savings and give us tips on filing our returns.
Some of the topic areas that will be discussed are taxpayer mistakes, taxes and retirement, what to do if you haven’t filed in several years, tax law changes between 2005 and 2006, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and filing online versus paper filing, and more.

The format for the call today will be to hear from our three speakers who will be introduced by my colleagues from Regions II, X, and the National Office.

Each speaker will give a brief 10-minute presentation, and then the operator will come on and give us instructions on how to ask questions during the question and answer session.