



GUIDE TO EVERYTHING EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLINE

What is Earned Income Tax Credit?

Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC, also called EIC, is an important benefit providing a financial boost to working individuals and families. To claim EITC, you need to meet certain qualifications and file a return even if you have no other filing requirement or owe no tax. [Find more EITC Information on www.irs.gov/eitc.](http://www.irs.gov/eitc)

Are You Eligible for EITC?

Find out if you are eligible by answering questions and providing basic income information using the EITC Assistant on irs.gov. It helps determine your filing status, the number of qualifying children you have, if any, and estimates the amount of your EITC. You can also print out a summary of your results.

[English Version of the EITC Assistant](#)

[la Versión en Español del Asistente](#)

To receive the credit, you must have income from:

- work for your employer or someone else,
- work for yourself,
- a business or farm you own or operate, or
- some disability plans.

[Find what earned income is or is not here.](#)

To claim EITC, you, and your spouse if you file a joint return, must meet certain eligibility rules. [Find the Earned Income Tax Credit Rules for Everyone here.](#)

And either

meet the additional rules for those with a qualifying child. [Find out if your child or children meet all the Qualifying Child Rules here.](#)

or

the rules for those without a qualifying child. [Find the rules for those without a qualifying child here.](#)

Special EITC Rules. There are special EITC rules for members of the military, members of the clergy, those receiving disability benefits, and those impacted by disasters. [Find the special EITC rules here.](#)

Is EITC only for those with low income?

Not really. Check to see if you and your family meet the EITC income limits. [Find the income limits for this year and other years.](#)



Watch out for common errors!

Errors can delay your refund or result in IRS denying your EITC claim. Avoid the following common errors:

- Claiming a child who does not meet the qualifying tests for age, relationship and residency.
- Social Security number or last name mismatches.
- Filing as single or head of household when married.
- Over or under reporting of income or expenses.

Errors can delay the EITC part of your refund until it's fixed. If the IRS audits your return and finds the EITC claim incorrect, you must pay back the amount of EITC you received in error plus interest and penalties. You may also have to file [Form 8862, Information to Claim Earned Income Credit after Disallowance](#), for future claims. And, if the IRS finds your incorrect claim was intentional or because of fraud, we may ban you from claiming EITC for 2 or 10 years.

PREPARING YOUR RETURN

Be prepared to get the EITC you earned.

Gather your important documents and make sure you have all the information you need to claim EITC. Find out what you need to prepare your return claiming EITC [here](#).

Choose a method:

1. Prepare your own return:
 - Use [third party software](#) to complete and file your return.
 - If you know how to complete a tax return, use [IRS Fillable Forms](#).
 - Have a certified volunteer assist you in preparing your return at any participating Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site.
2. Have a certified volunteer prepare your return. [Check here for more information on free tax return preparation.](#)
3. Pick a paid preparer carefully. If you pay someone to do your taxes, choose wisely. [If you are paying someone to do your taxes, find out what you should know here.](#)

Taxpayer Assistance Centers.

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TAC) are your source for personal tax help when you believe your tax issue cannot be handled online or by phone, and you want face-to-face tax assistance. [Find a list of local offices and hours of services.](#)

The most current version of this publication is available through www.irs.gov/eitc. If links are not working properly, please check to make sure you have the most recent version. If the problem continues, please let us know. Email: eitc.program@irs.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

Does EITC affect my other public benefits? Generally, EITC has no effect on most public benefits and is not used to determine eligibility. [Find more information here by scrolling down to the EITC and other Public Benefits information.](#)

Don't overlook the state credit. If you qualify to claim EITC on your federal income tax return, you also may be eligible for a similar credit on your state or local income tax return. [Find more information on states and local governments with EITC.](#)

Do you have questions about EITC? We have the answers. [Find the most common questions and answers related to EITC here.](#)

Read more about EITC in [Publication 596 in English \(PDF\)](#) or, [Publicacion 596 \(SP\)](#), [Credito por Ingreso del Trabajo \(PDF\)](#).

What You Need to Know About Your Taxes – Responsibilities & Benefits!

This toolkit is available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week and makes it easier for you to understand basic tax information. The IRS and the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) worked together to develop this [Tax Toolkit](#). TAS is an independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers who are experiencing economic harm, who are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, or who believe that an IRS system or procedure is not working as it should.

Taxpayer Rights.

Whether you file a Form 1040EZ or a complicated corporate return, you will benefit from knowing your rights as a taxpayer and being familiar with the IRS's obligations to protect them. The goal of the Taxpayer Rights Corner is to be your one-stop shop for taxpayer rights information during every step of your interaction with the IRS. [Visit the Taxpayer Rights Corner.](#)

Did you receive a Notice?

Reply to any IRS correspondence to get the EITC you earned. [Find information on Understanding Your IRS Notice here.](#) [Find IRS Notices listed by the notice number here.](#)

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