

# EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax benefit for working people who earn lower or moderate incomes. The credit offsets taxes, supplements very low wages, and encourages work. The EITC can help reduce any federal income tax workers may owe at tax time. Besides offsetting taxes, workers may also get a tax refund. Eligible workers who claim the EITC on their tax return can receive a refund even if they do not owe income tax.

Claiming the EITC does not affect eligibility for other benefits like SNAP (food stamps), SSI, Medicaid, cash assistance, or public housing. A saved tax refund does not count against federally-funded benefit program resource/asset limits for 12 months after the refund is received.

## EITC FAST FACTS

- Research shows higher EITC refunds are linked to healthier kids, higher scores in school, and higher earnings later in life
- In 2018:
  - Almost 26 million working families and individuals received the EITC
  - The average EITC was \$3,208 for families with children and \$302 for families without children
  - The EITC lifted about 5.6 million people out of poverty, including about 3 million children

## SAMPLE EITC VALUES BY INCOME

2020 Income	Workers raising:							
	No Children		1 Child		2 Children		3 Or More Children	
	Not Married	Married	Not Married	Married	Not Married	Married	Not Married	Married
\$1,000	\$157	\$157	\$349	\$349	\$410	\$410	\$461	\$461
\$5,000	\$769	\$769	\$1,709	\$1,709	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,261	\$2,261
\$10,000	\$1,524	\$1,524	\$3,409	\$3,409	\$4,010	\$4,010	\$4,511	\$4,511
\$15,000	\$1,027	\$1,524	\$3,618	\$3,618	\$5,980	\$5,980	\$6,728	\$6,728
\$20,000	\$262	\$1,171	\$3,537	\$3,618	\$5,874	\$5,980	\$6,621	\$6,728
\$25,000	0	\$406	\$2,738	\$3,618	\$4,821	\$5,980	\$5,568	\$6,728
\$30,000	0	0	\$1,939	\$2,890	\$3,768	\$5,021	\$4,515	\$5,768
\$35,000	0	0	\$1,140	\$2,091	\$2,715	\$3,968	\$3,462	\$4,715
\$40,000	0	0	\$341	\$1,292	\$1,662	\$2,915	\$2,409	\$3,662
\$45,000	0	0	0	\$493	\$609	\$1,862	\$1,356	\$2,609
\$50,000	0	0	0	0	0	\$809	\$303	\$1,556

This is not a tax table. This chart presents sample EITC benefits for different incomes. Do not use this table to complete income tax returns.

## ELIGIBILITY

Single and married people who worked full or part-time at some point during 2020 can qualify for the EITC, if their income is below the following limits:

Number of Qualifying Children	Single	Married	Max EITC
None	\$21,430	\$27,380	\$1,502
1	\$42,158	\$48,108	\$3,618
2	\$47,915	\$53,865	\$5,980
3 or more	\$51,464	\$57,414	\$6,728

Workers with investment income greater than \$10,000 in 2021 cannot claim the EITC. The worker, spouse, and qualifying children must have a valid social security number.

Qualifying children are biological or adopted children, grandchildren, foster children, stepchildren, younger siblings, or their descendants who lived with the worker in the U.S. for more than half the year. Children must be under 19, under 24 if a full-time student, or any age if totally and permanently disabled. Foster children must be placed with the worker by a government agency.

## CLAIMING THE CREDIT

To get the EITC, workers must file a tax return. Workers with children must submit the Schedule EIC. They cannot claim the EITC if they forget the Schedule EIC.

Workers who are married filing separately cannot claim the EITC. There are some exceptions. Visit [www.TaxOutreach.org/eitc](http://www.TaxOutreach.org/eitc).

Workers not raising children must be 19 or older to claim the EITC. Exceptions: Former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness can be 18 or older. Students enrolled at least half time in school must be 24 or older.