



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](https://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.