

2015 TAX YEAR FAST FACTS: Earned Income Tax Credit

- For the 2014 tax year 27.5 million taxpayers received about \$66.7 billion in EITC
 - For the 2014 tax year the average amount of EITC received was more than \$2,400
 - EITC is for workers whose income does not exceed the following limits in 2015:
 - \$47,747 (\$53,267 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
 - \$44,454 (\$49,974 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
 - \$39,131 (\$44,651 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
 - \$14,820(\$20,330 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children
- ** Investment income must be \$3,400 or less.
- Children must meet certain relationship, age, residency and joint return requirements to be a qualifying child. See if your child qualifies you for EITC; see "[Qualifying Child Rules](#)" on irs.gov or [Publication 596](#).
 - Take the credit you're due. The EITC credit ranges from:
 - \$11 to \$6,242 with three or more qualifying children
 - \$10 to \$5,548 with two qualifying children
 - \$9 to \$3,359 with one qualifying child
 - \$2 to \$503 with no qualifying children
 - You could be new to EITC. About one-third of the EITC eligible population turns over each year, so check your EITC eligibility today at www.irs.gov/eitc.
 - EITC can be a boost to you, your family and community. Anyone with earnings of \$54,000 or less should see if they qualify at www.irs.gov/eitc or visit a volunteer tax assistance site.
 - Four of five eligible workers claim and get their EITC. We want to raise that number to five out of five. You earned it, "now file, claim it and get it." See if you qualify at www.irs.gov/eitc.
 - The EITC and CTC greatly reduce poverty for working families. These working-family tax credits lifted 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2013, including 5 million children, and made 22 million other people less poor. (Source: [Chuck Marr](#), [Chye-Ching Huang](#), [Arloc Sherman](#), and [Brandon DeBot](#), *CBPP - EITC and Child Tax Credit Promote Work, Reduce Poverty, and Support Children's Development, Research Finds*, October 1, 2015).
 - Millions of workers qualify for EITC for the first time this year, making awareness critical. Workers move into and out of eligibility based on changes in their marital, parental and financial status.
 - If you qualify for EITC, see what other child-related tax credits you may be eligible to claim.

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- The amount of the EITC depends on the amount you earned from working for someone or for yourself, whether you are married or single, and the number of qualifying children you have, if any. Don't miss out, find out if you are eligible at www.irs.gov/eitc.
- If you qualify for EITC, you must file a federal income tax return and claim the credit to get it, even if you owe no tax or aren't required to file a return.
- Workers at risk for overlooking this important credit include those:
 - Living in non-traditional homes, such as a grandparent raising a grandchild
 - Whose earnings declined or whose marital or parental status changed
 - Without children
 - With limited English skills
 - Living in rural areas
 - Who are Native Americans
 - With earnings below the filing requirement
 - Who have disabilities or are raising children with disabilities
- If you qualify for the Federal EITC, you may also be eligible for a similar credit from your state or local government. [Twenty-two states](#), plus local municipalities including the District of Columbia, and New York City, offer residents an earned income tax credit for 2015.
- You can determine your eligibility for, file and claim your EITC for free:
 - You can use the online [EITC Assistant](#) at www.irs.gov to help you determine if you are eligible. The 2015 tax year versions in both English and Spanish will be available January 2016.
 - If you make \$54,000 a year or less, you can access free tax return preparation services available at more than 13,000 community [volunteer tax assistance](#) sites.
 - You can use brand name software products through IRS's Free File and electronically file your return to claim your EITC. Visit www.irs.gov to access the software.
 - The IRS works with national partners, community-based coalitions and thousands of local partners and governments. These partnerships provide [free EITC tax return preparation and tax help](#) and education.
- You should choose a tax preparer carefully. You are responsible for the accuracy of your own return. If you pay someone to prepare your tax return, the preparer must sign it and enter his or her PTIN, Preparer Tax Identification Number. Don't ever sign a blank tax return. Find out what you should know if you [pay someone to do your taxes](#).
- If you claim EITC in error, your refund could be delayed, denied and you may be banned from claiming the credit for two to ten years.