

Do You Have Children?

Many taxpayers with young children qualify for the Child Tax Credit. **You do not need a Social Security Number to file this tax refund claim.** You even can claim children not living in the U.S. if they have an Individual Tax Identification Number and if you pay for their living expenses.

If you or your children do not have a social security number, contact a local community-based organization for help.

Helpful Information:

Federal Trade Commission

Consumer help line: 1-877-382-4357.
Identity theft line: 1-877-438-4338.

Fannie Mae Foundation

Free guides on credit and home loans.
Call toll free: 1-800-611-9566.
Español: 1-800-782-2729.
www.homebuyingguide.com

Housing and Urban Development

Free advice on home buying.
Call toll free: 1-800-569-4287.
www.hud.gov or www.espanol.hud.gov

Online Consumer Help:

Federal Reserve Bank

Brochures on credit, finances, and how to buy a car or home.
www.federalreserve.gov/consumers.htm

My Money

Financial education materials from U.S. government agencies.
Call toll free: 1-888-MYMONEY (696-6639).
www.mymoney.gov
www.mymoney.gov/Espanol

Call the Attorney General's office in your state if you believe that a provider of goods and services has treated you unfairly.



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To download all of the brochures in this series, log on to www.appleseeds.net

Reduce Your Taxes



BANK ON YOUR FUTURE



You Could Pay Less Federal Income Tax or Qualify for a Tax Refund if you meet income guidelines under the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**!

Through the Earned Income Tax Credit program, the federal government returns money to low-income workers—to encourage work and to reduce poverty.

You can apply for EITC and **still receive other government assistance** such as Medicaid, food stamps, and low-income housing. Claiming EITC generally doesn't interfere with these benefits.

Fifteen states also have an EITC program, so you also may be able to save money or receive a refund on your state taxes.

You May Be Eligible if you ...

- Have a job and pay taxes;
- Have lived in the U.S. for six months of the year, along with each dependent child claimed under the Earned Income Tax Credit; AND
- Hold a valid Social Security Number.

If You Are Filing Single, your annual earnings must be less than:

- \$11,490 with no children
- \$30,338 with one child
- \$34,458 with two or more children

If You Are Married Filing Jointly, your annual earnings must be less than:

- \$12,490 with no children
- \$31,338 with one child
- \$35,458 with two or more children

These income limits change every year. Check with the Internal Revenue Service or a local community organization for the most recent guidelines.

Also, **if you are married and only one of you works**, your household is still eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit if you both have a Social Security Number and meet the other eligibility criteria.

If you are not working now, but were employed last year, you may be able to claim the EITC on this year's tax return. If you did not claim EITC in the past, you may qualify for three years' worth of refunds.

You Are Not Eligible for the EITC if you ...

- Are claimed as a dependent on someone else's taxes;
- Are younger than 25 or older than 65 and do not have a dependent child;
- Have earned \$2,600 or more in investment income;
- Are filing taxes as "Married Filing Separately;" OR
- Do not have a Social Security Number valid for employment.

Beware of "Instant" Tax Refunds!

Watch out for tax preparers who offer you instant money. Instant tax refunds are actually expensive loans with annual interest rates as high as 180%!

To receive your refund quickly, usually within two weeks, look for a free tax filing site in your community. Ask a local organization you trust for help in finding one.

If you don't want to wait until next year for your EITC refund, you can receive an extra \$50 in your paycheck every two weeks as an advance payment of your EITC. To take advantage of this option, complete form W-5 and give it to your employer.