

Earned Income Tax Credit

Take the money.



You've earned it.

Claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a tax benefit for people who work. If you qualify, the EITC will reduce your taxes and could **give you back almost \$5,000**. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EITC.

DC and Maryland residents can claim the EITC on **both** their federal tax return and their state income tax return. Virginia residents can claim the EITC on their federal return only. You may qualify for the EITC if:

- You were raising two or more children and earned less than \$33,178*.
- You were raising one child and earned less than \$29,201*.
- You had no children in the home in 2002, earned less than \$11,060* and were between 25 and 64 years of age.

*This is the income limit for single workers. The income limit for married workers is \$1,000 higher.

Claim the Child Tax Credit, too! If you earned more than \$10,350, you may qualify for the federal Child Tax Credit — which provides up to \$600 for each dependent child under age 17.



Call for information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and about locations for **FREE tax preparation.**

DC: *Answers, Please!*, 202-463-6211 **MD:** 1-800-492-0618 **VA:** 1-800-829-1040

**DC EARNED
INCOME
TAX CREDIT
CAMPAIGN**

Questions & Answers

Is the government going to give me money?

Yes! The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special tax benefit only for people who work full- or part-time. If you qualify, you'll owe less in taxes and you may get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EITC.

How do I get the Earned Income Tax Credit?

If you were raising children in your home in 2002, file federal tax form 1040 or 1040A, and attach Schedule EIC. Do not file tax form 1040EZ. For the DC EITC, file form D-40. For the Maryland EIC, file tax form 502 or 503.

If you were not raising children in your home in 2002, file tax form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ with the IRS. In DC, use form D-40 or form D-40EZ. In Maryland, use form 502 or 503.

Are there other tax credits for families?

Yes. Families that earned more than \$10,350 in 2002 may also be eligible for a refund from the Child Tax Credit. To claim the Child Tax Credit, attach IRS Form 8812, "Additional Child Tax Credit," to your tax return.

What if I don't know how to file a tax return?

Free help is available. For information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and locations for **FREE TAX PREPARATION** in DC, call *Answers Please!* at 202-463-6211. In Maryland call 1-800-492-0618. In Virginia call 1-800-829-1040.

What should I bring to complete my taxes?

- Social Security or ITIN number for each family member you will claim
- W-2 or 1099 Form from each job you worked in 2002.
- End of the year statements for other income you received in 2002 (bank interest, social security, unemployment, etc.)
- End of the year 401(k) statement
- Child care provider name, address and tax ID number
- Records of expenses for tax credits and deductions (child care, education, medical, etc.)
- A copy of last year's tax return, if you have it.
- A blank check, or your savings account number and bank routing information for automatic deposit of your refund.

What if I haven't filed a tax return in a long time?

You can still get the EITC. If you were eligible, you can claim the EITC for three years back. If you owe back taxes, the EIC may lower your tax bill. You also may be able to work out a payment agreement.

Can I get a "quick refund" with my EITC?

Yes, but quick refunds are loans that charge fees and take away money from your EITC. Remember, free tax help is available.

What if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

Many legal immigrants who are employed are eligible for the EIC, including *green card* holders, refugees, and others legally authorized to work. Getting the credit will not hurt your immigration status.

Is there anything else I should know?

Yes, eligible workers can have part of their anticipated EITC for the current year added to their pay checks. Call 1-800-492-0618 and ask about the EITC **advance payment option**.



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For additional copies of this flyer, contact Ann Pierre at pierre@dcfpi.org or 202-408-1080.