

EITC, Earned Income Tax Credit. What is it, and how do I get it?

You qualify for the EITC if:

- you have earned income and adjusted gross income within certain limits; AND
- you meet certain basic rules; AND
- you either:
 - meet the rules for those without a qualifying child; OR
 - have a child that meets **all** the qualifying child rules for you (or your spouse if filing a joint return).

Use the EITC Assistant to find out your filing status, your child's status as a qualifying child, your eligibility for the credit, and estimate the amount of the credit you may get.

[Use the EITC Assistant](#)

EITC has special rules that apply for members of the military, members of the clergy, and taxpayers with certain types of disability income or children with disabilities.

Basic Rules

Social Security Number

You, your spouse and any qualifying child you list on your tax return must each have a Social Security number that is valid for employment and that was issued on or before the due date of your return (including extensions).

Filing Status

your return using one of the following filing statuses:

- Married filing jointly
- Head of household
- Qualifying widow or widower
- Single

You can't claim the EITC if your filing status is **married filing separately**.

If you, or your spouse, are a **nonresident alien** for any part of the year, you can't claim the EITC unless your filing status is married filing jointly. You may use that filing status only if one spouse is a U.S. citizen or resident alien and you choose to treat the

nonresident spouse as a U.S. resident. See [Publication 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens \(PDF\)](#), to find out if you are eligible for the EITC.

Tax Year 2020

Qualifying Children Claimed

| If filing | Zero | One | Two | Three |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Single, Head of Household, or Widowed | \$15,820 | \$41,756 | \$47,440 | \$50,954 |
| Married Filing Jointly | \$21,710 | \$47,646 | \$53,330 | \$56,844 |

Investment Income Limit

Investment income must be \$3,650 or less for the year.

Maximum Credit Amounts

The maximum amount of credit for Tax Year 2020 is:

- \$6,660 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,920 with two qualifying children
- \$3,584 with one qualifying child
- \$538 with no qualifying children.