

More Tax Relief

for Working Families

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Tax

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Credit

If you make less than about \$49,000 and have children at home, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit can reduce the income tax you pay and may even mean you get a bigger refund—as much as \$5,000 or more! Plus, there are tax credits available for saving for retirement, paying for college, and buying a first home.

Keep More of Your Refund

- If you go to a paid preparer, don't be tempted by "instant refunds."
- Prepare and e-file your own tax return free online.
- Have your taxes done at a free tax preparation site near you.

To learn about tax credits for working families
and to find free help filing your taxes:

Dial 2-1-1 (a free call)

or go to www.piton.org/eitc



The IRS is going to give me money?

Yes! The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit are benefits for people who work. If you qualify, you'll owe less in taxes and may even get cash back. But to get these tax credits, you must file an income tax return, even if you don't owe income tax.

Also in 2009, many workers got the new Making Work Pay Credit in their paychecks. But if you were self-employed or didn't earn enough to have income tax withheld, you can claim this credit on your tax return.

How much can I earn? How much is my tax credit?

For the EITC, if you have:	*Earned less than:	Claim an EITC up to:
1 child	\$35,463	\$3,043
2 children	\$40,295	\$5,028
3 or more children	\$43,279	\$5,657
No children	\$13,440	\$457

For the Child Tax Credit:	Earned more than:	Claim a CTC up to:
1 or more children	\$3,000	\$1,000 per child

* EITC income limits for married workers are \$5,000 higher!

Important: EITC, CTC and Making Work Pay Credit refunds do not count as income when applying for or renewing benefits like food stamps, SSI, Medicaid, TANF, public housing or LEAP.

What are the other tax credits?

Workers with incomes under \$55,500 can receive a Saver's Tax Credit worth up to 50% of a maximum contribution of \$2,000 for retirement. There also are two tax credits worth up to about \$2,500 for persons who pay expenses for higher education. And new in 2009, first-time homebuyers may be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$8,000.

How can I file my taxes and take advantage of these tax credits?

- If you use a paid preparer, you can expect to pay between \$100 and \$200. And, you'll pay even more to get a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) or "rapid refund." But beware, these are really just high-cost loans. You'll speed up your refund just by filing electronically, which is what most paid preparers do. When you choose to have your refund direct deposited into a bank account, you'll get it in only 7-10 days!
- File free online. If you make less than \$56,000 and have access to a computer and the Internet, use the IRS Free File program at www.irs.gov/efile for your federal return and www.netfile.state.co.us for your Colorado return.
- Go to a free tax assistance site. If you made less than \$49,000, IRS certified volunteers will prepare and e-file your tax return for free. For the location of a free tax site near you, dial 2-1-1 (a free call) or go to www.piton.org/eitc.

Do you need help with your energy bill too? Contact LEAP through your county human services office, or call 1-866-432-8435.