Colorado

Colorado Treats Poor Families Under Its Income Tax Better Than Most States

Colorado's 2002 income tax threshold — the income level at which families begin paying income tax:

Ranking among 42 states with income taxes

⇒ For single-parent families of three: \$15,900.

22nd highest (tie)

⇒ For two-parent families of four: \$21,400.

17th highest

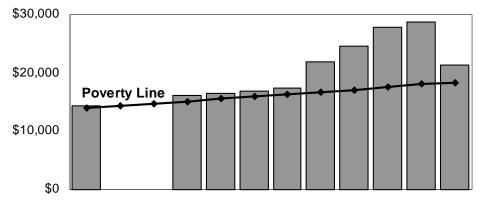
Colorado's 2002 income tax on working-poor and near-poor families:

- ⇒ No tax on families of three or four with *full-time minimum wage earnings* (\$10,712).
- ⇒ No tax on families of three with *incomes at the poverty line* (\$14,351).
- ⇒ No tax on families of four with *incomes at the poverty line (\$18,390)*.
- For families of three with *incomes at 125% of poverty line (\$17,939):* \$95.
- For families of four with *incomes at 125% of poverty line (\$22,988):* **25**th **highest**

Colorado has consistently exempted families with below-poverty earnings from the income tax, but the suspension of the state EITC threatens the progress made in recent years in reducing income tax burdens on poor families.

- A state EITC in Colorado enacted in the late 1990s was suspended for tax year 2002 due to insufficient state revenues, reducing that state's income tax threshold for a family of four from \$28,700 to \$21,400. This was the steepest decline in any state's income tax threshold at any time in at least ten years.
- □ In 1991, a family of four owed income tax when its income reached 3 percent above the poverty line. In 2001, Colorado's tax threshold was 59 percent about the poverty line. In 2002, the threshold dropped to 16 percent above the poverty line.

Income Tax Threshold for Family of Four



Year	Threshold
1991	\$14,300
1994	\$16,200
1995	\$16,600
1996	\$16,900
1997	\$17,500
1998	\$21,900
1999	\$24,600
2000	\$27,900
2001	\$28,700
2002	\$21,400

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *State Income Tax Burdens on Low-Income Families in 2002*, April 11, 2003.