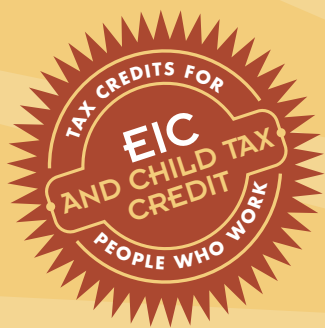
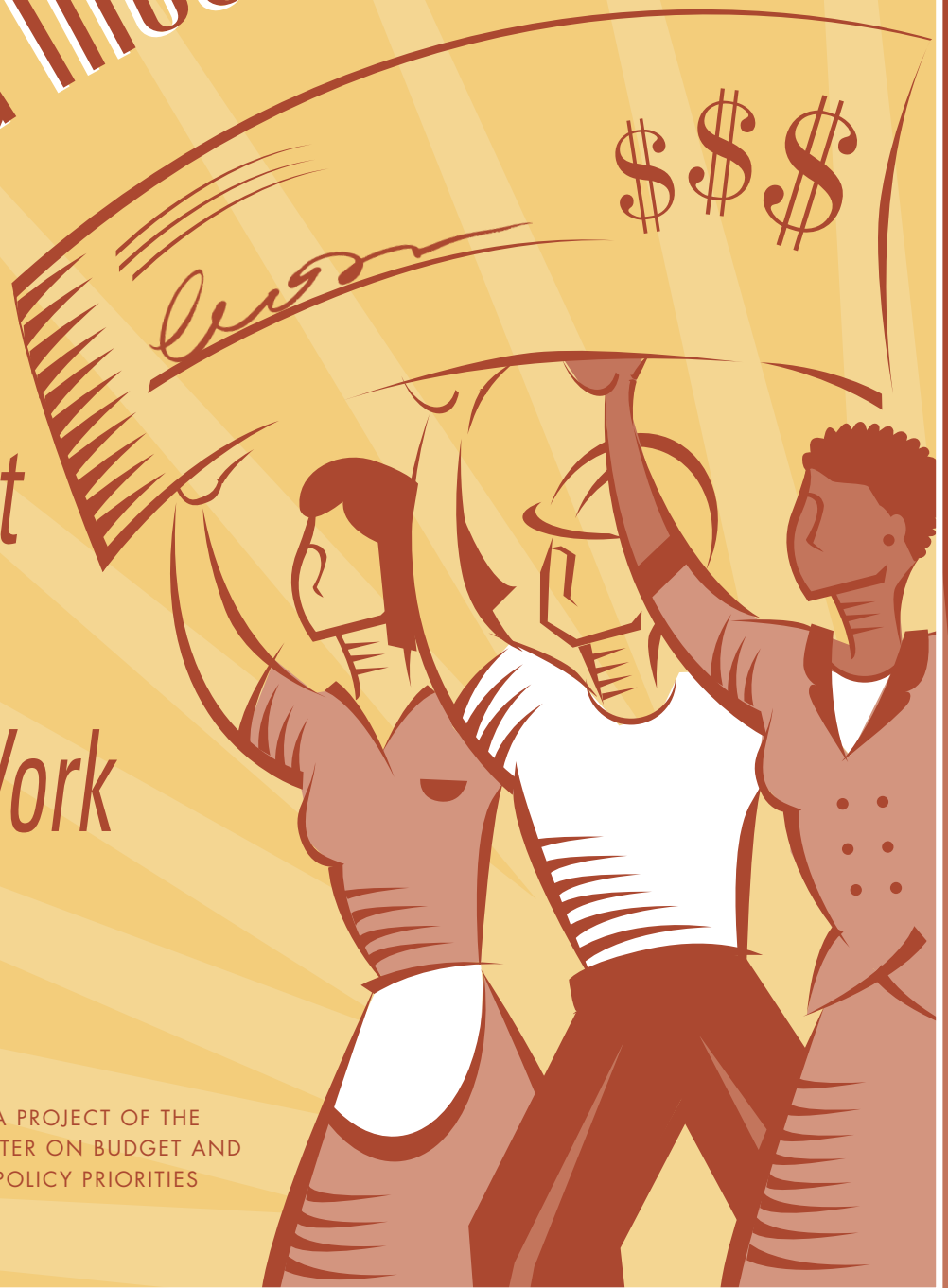


# Facts About the Earned Income Credit:

A Tax Credit  
for People  
Who Work



A PROJECT OF THE  
CENTER ON BUDGET AND  
POLICY PRIORITIES





# Facts About the Earned Income Credit: A Tax Credit for People Who Work

## ***You don't have to be a tax expert to promote the Earned Income Credit!***

*Each year, community organizations, human services providers, businesses, employers, labor unions, government agencies, and a host of others find effective ways to incorporate Earned Income Credit (EIC) outreach activities into their routine operations. Most EIC Campaign partners have no specialized tax knowledge — but they successfully alert working families and individuals about this critical tax benefit and direct them to free tax filing assistance. Their efforts mean millions of working families and individuals get a significant boost to their paychecks.*

**NEW**  
this year!

## ***This booklet will help you get started.***

*This booklet provides the background you need to understand the basics of the EIC — who is eligible and how to claim it. In addition, you will find the answers to commonly asked questions and more detailed information pertaining to special groups of eligible workers, such as immigrant workers or members of the military.*

## ***Many families can now get Extra Credit! by claiming the Child Tax Credit.***

*This year, many working families can qualify for the Child Tax Credit for the first time and get up to \$600 for each child — in addition to the EIC for which they may qualify. The rules for claiming the Child Tax Credit are different from the rules for claiming the Earned Income Credit, adding new challenges for organizations engaged in EIC outreach activities. You will want to get familiar with the new Child Tax Credit, so you can help families take advantage of the full*

range of tax benefits. While this adds some complexity to the picture, the bottom line is that the outreach message to families can remain simple: You can get **Extra Credit** this year! A separate new booklet, *Facts About the Child Tax Credit*, is included in this kit.

**Here are the fact sheets inside this booklet:**

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**More Money for Workers in Colorado, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Wisconsin!**

In addition to the federal EIC, low-income workers in these states can receive extra money for 2001 from a refundable state EIC. Because the state EIC is in addition to the federal credit, the EIC amounts you see in this kit will be lower than the combined federal and state EIC benefits available to workers in these states. Consider adding the amount of your state credit and instructions for applying for it to the kit materials. For more information, contact your state department of revenue.

# The Earned Income Credit: Extra Money for People Who Work



## What is the Earned Income Credit?

The EIC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. It has several important purposes: to reduce the tax burden on these workers, to supplement wages, and to make work more attractive than welfare.

Workers who qualify for the EIC and file a federal tax return can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of their pay during the year. They may also get extra cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings are too small to have paid taxes can get the EIC. What's more, the EIC reduces any additional taxes workers may owe.

## Who can get the EIC and how much is it worth?

Single or married people who worked full-time or part-time at some point in 2001 can qualify for the EIC, depending on their income.

- Workers who were raising one child in their home and had family income of less than \$28,281 in 2001 can get an EIC of up to **\$2,428**.
- Workers who were raising more than one child in their home and had family income of less than \$32,121 in 2001 can get an EIC of up to **\$4,008**.
- Workers who were not raising children in their home, were between ages 25 and 64 on December 31, 2001, and had income below \$10,710 can get an EIC of up to **\$364**.

### Which children qualify for the EIC?

“Qualifying children” include: sons, daughters, stepchildren, grandchildren and adopted children, as long as they lived with the worker for more than half the year. Foster children can be claimed if they lived with the worker all year. Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, or stepsisters — as well as descendants of such relatives — can be claimed as foster children if they lived with the taxpayer all year and were cared for as members of the family. Other children may qualify as foster children, but only if they are placed with the worker by an authorized government or private placement agency.

“Qualifying children” must be under age 19, or under age 24 if they are full-time students. Totally and permanently disabled children of any age also may be “qualifying children.” Valid Social Security numbers are required for qualifying children born before December 31, 2001.

## How does the EIC work?

- **Eligible workers can get a check from the IRS.** Ms. Berger has two children in college and earned \$19,000 in 2001. Her federal income tax for the year was \$365, all of which was withheld from her pay. She is eligible for an EIC of \$2,763. The EIC pays her back the \$365 she paid in income tax and gives her an additional cash refund of \$2,398.

- **Eligible workers who don't owe federal income tax can get a check.** Mr. Smith has no children. He worked part-time in 2001 earning \$4,900. Because of his low earnings he had no income tax taken out of his paycheck and owes nothing to the IRS. His earnings entitle him to an EIC check for \$364.
- **Eligible workers pay less in taxes.** Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have two children. They earned \$29,000 in 2001 and owe the IRS \$470 more than what was withheld from their pay during the year. But their income also makes them eligible for an EIC of \$657. The EIC eliminates the additional taxes they owe and still gives them a refund of \$187.

## How do you get the EIC?

- Workers raising children in 2001 must file either Form 1040 or 1040A and **must** fill out and attach Schedule EIC. Workers with children **cannot** get the EIC if they file Form 1040EZ or fail to attach Schedule EIC. Married workers must file a joint return to get the EIC.
- Workers who were not raising children in 2001 can file any tax form — including the 1040EZ. These workers write “EIC” (or the dollar amount of their credit) on the Earned Income Credit line on the tax form. They do **not** file Schedule EIC.
- A correct name and Social Security number must be provided for every person listed on the tax return and Schedule EIC. If this information is incorrect or missing, the IRS will delay the refund.
- Workers don't have to calculate their own EIC; if they choose, the IRS will do it for them!

## Workers raising children can get the EIC in their paychecks!

Workers who are raising children can get part of their EIC in their paychecks throughout the year and part in a check from the IRS after they file their tax return. This is called the Advance EIC payment option. *For more information, see “Increasing Workers’ Take-Home Pay” on p. 7 of this booklet.*

## Workers can get FREE help filing their tax forms

Many families that apply for the EIC pay someone to complete their tax forms. This can cost \$55 to \$100, or much more. Getting a “quick tax refund” that comes back in a few days costs even more. Paying for tax preparation takes away from the value of the EIC. But low-income workers can get free help with tax preparation through a program called VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). *For more information, see the booklet in this kit, “Helping Workers Claim the Tax Benefits They’ve Earned.”*

## Does the EIC affect welfare benefits?

In most cases, the EIC does not affect eligibility for benefits like cash assistance (“welfare”), Medicaid, food stamps, SSI, or public or subsidized housing.

## Can immigrant workers get the EIC?

Many legal immigrants can qualify for the EIC, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

The materials in this kit should answer many questions about the EIC. *For more information, call the IRS at 1-800-TAX-1040. The 24-hour line is often busy, so be patient!*

# Workers Without Children Can Qualify for the EIC



Very low-income workers who are not raising children in their home are eligible for a small Earned Income Credit. In tax year 1999, about 3 million such workers received credits worth more nearly \$60 million. The credit is available to people who worked full- or part-time in 2001 and:

- were at least age 25 and under age 65 on December 31, 2001;
- had earnings of less than \$10,710;
- were *not* raising children in their home who were under age 19 (or under age 24 if the child was a full-time student) for more than six months during 2001; and
- were *not* the dependent or qualifying child of another taxpayer in 2001.

The credit for workers not raising children is worth up to \$364 for tax year 2001 — the average is expected to be about \$205. This credit works the same way as the EIC for families: it gives back some or all of the federal income tax taken out of a worker's pay during the year. The worker may also get additional cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings are too small to have paid federal income tax can get the credit.

## How do you get this credit?

Eligible workers not raising children get the EIC by filing a *federal income tax return*. They can use Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. On the "Earned Income Credit" line they simply fill in the amount of their credit or write "EIC" and the IRS will calculate the amount of the credit for them. Married workers must file a joint return to claim this credit.

**Good News!** If a worker doesn't fill in the credit amount or write "EIC" on the tax form, the IRS will automatically figure out if he or she appears to be eligible for the credit. If so, the IRS will send the worker a notice requesting additional information. The worker claims the EIC by submitting the additional information requested. Any refund owed to the worker will be received later in the year.

**Phone it in!** In 2001, over 4.4 million taxpayers filed their 1040EZ tax returns automatically by telephone. In 2002, this option will be available to single and married workers with no dependents who used the 1040EZ to file their tax returns in 2001 and are still at the same address. The IRS will send these workers a special "Telefile" packet with instructions and a special personal identification number (PIN). Using the tax forms and worksheets provided, taxpayers call the IRS Telefile number and key in the PIN and their tax form information. A touch-tone telephone is necessary (Telefile is available for the hearing impaired who have access to TDD/TYY equipment.) *If the taxpayer is eligible for the EIC for workers not raising children, the credit will be calculated automatically.*

## Why is the credit for workers not raising children important?

It provides a financial boost to those who work at very low wages or are only able to find part-time work. This includes many day laborers, migrant workers, temporary employees, homeless people and general assistance recipients who worked part of the year.

## What do we know about the workers eligible for this credit?

Population statistics tell us about workers likely to qualify for this credit.

- The average annual earnings for these workers is about \$5,400. Two-fifths of them work in service industries. Almost 25 percent work full-time, year round.
- About 75 percent of these workers have at least a high school diploma.
- The majority of these workers — approximately 64 percent — are non-Hispanic white. About 19 percent are African American, and about 13 percent are Latino.
- Only about 14 percent are married. About 46 percent are single men and 40 percent are single women.

## What are the special outreach challenges?

- For some, the EIC may seem too small to make filing a tax return worthwhile.
- Some may fear entering the tax system either because they haven't filed taxes in a long time or because they owe child support.
- Sometimes, very low-income workers distrust their employers. As a result, EIC information they receive from employers may not be viewed as legitimate. If you give employers materials to distribute, add the name and number of a contact organization that is trusted by workers in your community.

## How do you reach them?

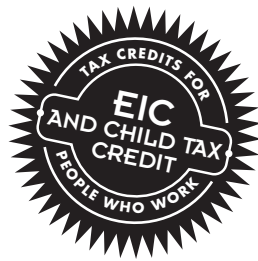
Focusing outreach efforts on the grassroots level may combat mistrust. Try tenants' associations, food banks, and English as a Second Language classes. Consider distributing EIC materials at:

- Veterans Administration hospitals or service centers
- Public hospital out-patient clinics and emergency rooms
- Community colleges with large populations of non-traditional students
- Vocational rehabilitation centers
- Drop-off and pick-up spots for day labor
- National and regional hotel, fast food or other service industry chains
- Jobs programs and shelters for the homeless and victims of domestic violence
- Transitional housing programs

*For more ideas on reaching workers likely to be eligible for this credit, see p. 20 in the booklet in this kit, "Helping Workers Boost Their Paychecks."*



# Increasing Workers' Take-Home Pay: The Advance EIC Payment Option



## What is Advance EIC payment?

Most workers get the EIC in one large check from the IRS after they file a tax return. But there is another choice: employers can add part of a worker's EIC to every paycheck, and the worker gets the rest of the credit after filing a tax return. This is called "Advance EIC payment."

In 2002, Advance EIC payments are available to any worker with at least one qualifying child who expects 2002 income of less than about \$29,000. The credit for workers who are not raising children in their home is not available in advance payments.

## What are the advantages of Advance EIC payment?

For many workers, getting part of their EIC in each paycheck can make a difference in paying the rent, buying groceries, and meeting other day-to-day needs. A worker earning between \$490 and \$1,000 a month, for example, can get about *\$50 extra in each bi-weekly paycheck*. Employers also benefit from promoting Advance EIC payments — they can help employees increase their take-home pay at no cost to the business. This can decrease turnover in the workplace.

## Protection against overpayment

Some workers decide against advance payments because they want a large refund at tax time. But some workers also fear they will receive too much in advance, and owe money back to the IRS after the end of the year. However, the advance payment procedure has built-in protections against overpayment. Workers who choose advance payment can get up to about half of the EIC amount to which they're entitled for the year. They get the rest as a refund when they file their tax return. This means workers can get advance payments *and* a year-end refund! And, because workers receive only part of their EIC during the year, they're protected against getting too much in advance and owing some back at the end of the year.

## Some workers should not choose Advance EIC payment

Advance EIC payments are based on the total income workers expect their families to earn in a year. Changes in income or family size during the year can decrease the EIC (and therefore the advance payments) for which workers are eligible. If a worker continues to receive advance payments based on an incorrect estimate of yearly income, these payments may exceed the amount of the EIC. In this case, the worker would have to send the IRS a check at tax time to make up the difference. The following workers should not use the advance payment option:

- Workers who hold more than one job
- Workers with a working spouse, unless *both* spouses take advance payments during the year
- Workers who get married during the year and *both* spouses work
- Workers whose earned income increases a lot



## How do you get the Advance EIC payment?

Getting Advance EIC payments is not hard. Eligible workers fill out a **W-5 form** called the “Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate” and give the bottom part to their employer. The W-5 is available from employers. The W-5 form, “2002 Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate,” may be photocopied and distributed for use by eligible workers. *The form can be downloaded from the IRS website at: [www.irs.gov/prod/forms\\_pubs/forms.htm](http://www.irs.gov/prod/forms_pubs/forms.htm).*

Eligible workers can file a W-5 at any time during the year, but they must file a *new* W-5 at the beginning of each year to continue getting the EIC in their paychecks.

If workers are planning to get married or expect a large increase in income during the year, they should ask their employer to stop putting Advance EIC payments in their paychecks. To do this, workers file a new W-5 form with their employer and indicate they don’t want to receive advance payments any more.

Married workers can choose advance payment, but if they do, *both spouses should give a W-5 to their employers*. The box on the W-5 indicating the worker’s spouse also has a W-5 in effect should be checked “yes.” This signals the employer of each spouse to figure the correct amount of the advance payment and avoid an overpayment of the EIC. If only one spouse chooses advance payment, the advance payment amount he or she receives may be too high.

**Remember!** Workers who get advance payments during the year *must* file a tax return after the end of the year and include the total amount received in advance payments. They must also complete Schedule EIC and attach it to their tax return.

## Some workers aren’t eligible to use Advance EIC payments

Some workers who are eligible for the EIC are *not allowed* to get advance payments, including:

- Workers without qualifying children
- Workers who get paid day by day
- People with no Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from their pay
- Self-employed workers, who cannot advance the EIC to themselves

## What is the employer’s role?

Advance payments don’t cost employers money. Employers simply subtract the advance payments they have added to their workers’ paychecks from the total taxes withheld from all employees they would otherwise deposit with the IRS. Most automated payroll systems handle Advance EIC payments.

Some employers may not be aware of the Advance EIC payment option. But under federal law, any eligible employee who files a W-5 with an employer *must* be given advance payments. Employers are *not* required to make sure employees are eligible for the EIC — that is the employee’s responsibility. *For more information, see the IRS Employer’s Tax Guide, Circular E. It’s available for free by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM. Also see the IRS website containing information on Advance EIC at [www.irs.gov/ind\\_info/eitc4.html](http://www.irs.gov/ind_info/eitc4.html).*

# Questions and Answers About the EIC



People often have questions about whether they can qualify for the EIC if they live in a non-traditional family, or about whether claiming the EIC will affect welfare benefits or immigrant status. This fact sheet will help you answer these and other questions.

## EIC and Welfare Benefits

*Can people who work and also get welfare benefits, still get the EIC?*

Yes. As long as they earn wages, and meet the income and other eligibility requirements. These workers may use the Advance EIC payment option, if they wish.

**NOTE!** Some welfare recipients are required to participate in “work experience” and “community service programs” (often called “workfare”) in exchange for their cash assistance benefits. These benefits are not counted as income to determine eligibility for the EIC. Current or former recipients who are employed in private or public sector jobs for which employers are subsidized through state welfare block grants, or other government programs, do earn wages that count in determining eligibility for the EIC. *For more information, contact the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, (202) 408-1080.*

*Will getting the EIC lower other government benefits? Could someone lose benefits altogether?*

Generally, no. Under federal rules, the EIC (including advance payments) is not counted as income for Medicaid, food stamps, SSI or federally assisted housing programs. The EIC must be spent by the end of the month after the month in which it is received or it can count as a resource in determining eligibility for Medicaid, SSI or federally assisted housing programs. The EIC can count as a resource in determining eligibility for food stamps if it is not spent within 12 months of receiving it. Often, if the recipient has few or no other resources, the amount of the EIC is not enough to cause that recipient to exceed the resource limit for the benefits programs mentioned.

The welfare legislation enacted in August 1996 replaced the AFDC program with a new block grant program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Under the block grant, each state can set its own rules for how the EIC will be treated in determining eligibility for cash assistance, but so far no state has counted the EIC refund as income. However, in Connecticut, Advance EIC payments may in some circumstances affect a worker’s TANF eligibility. *(The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is monitoring state welfare policies regarding the EIC and will alert EIC Campaign partners to changes. We would appreciate receiving reports of such proposals.)*

Rules on how the EIC may affect “General Assistance” benefits are different in each state where a general assistance program is in place. *Contact your state or local welfare department for information.*

## How to Claim Back EICs and Other Filing Questions

### *What if a worker was eligible for the EIC in past years but didn't claim it?*

Workers can file for the EIC for the last three years. For example, a worker who was eligible for the EIC in 1998 but did not claim it can fill out a Form 1040X and attach it to a copy of the regular 1998 tax form he or she filed that year. Workers claiming a child for the EIC also must fill out and attach Schedule EIC for 1998. For copies of prior-year forms, call 1-800-TAX-FORM. *For more information, see p. 17 in the booklet in this kit, "Helping Workers Claim the Tax Credits They've Earned."*

### *What happens if a worker files for an EIC and the IRS finds out that taxes are owed?*

The worker must pay whatever is owed. **But:**

- The EIC may be enough to cover the taxes owed.
- The IRS is usually willing to work out payment plans for back taxes.
- The worker may be able to make an "offer in compromise" that is less than the tax bill.

### *What about workers who did not file a return and discover they had been eligible for the EIC?*

An eligible worker can file a return and claim the EIC for three back years. For example, this year workers are filing 2001 taxes. If a worker failed to file or claim the EIC in the past, he or she could still file for 2000, 1999 and 1998. A worker must file a separate return for each prior year and, if claiming a child for the EIC, also fill out and attach the Schedule EIC for that year. A Form 1040X is not required. There is no late filing penalty, unless the worker owed income tax in the prior year. The amount owed the IRS will be deducted from the EIC. Workers who may owe taxes in excess of their EIC should seek assistance from a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, accountant, or attorney and, if necessary, arrange a payment agreement with the IRS.

### *Can self-employed workers get the EIC?*

Yes. They will need to fill out a special series of forms: Schedule C, Schedule SE (if their self-employment income is more than \$400), Form 1040 and Schedule EIC (if they were raising children in their home). *Call the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM to get the necessary forms.*

### *Will the IRS request any additional information?*

Generally, the IRS will not require any additional information. But, if information provided on the tax return or Schedule EIC seems questionable, the IRS may request additional documentation to verify the EIC claim. In such cases, the IRS will send the filer a questionnaire that specifies the type of documentation that must be submitted. For example, a filer may be asked to submit a copy of a qualifying child's birth certificate. It is important that the name on the birth certificate match the name on that child's Social Security card. If a child is over age 24 and permanently and totally disabled, proof of disability status could be requested. The IRS also may require documents verifying that a qualifying child actually lived with the filer at least half the year (or full year if a foster child).

Filers claiming the EIC should *not* mail in any additional documentation with their tax returns unless such documentation is requested. If additional information is requested, filers need submit *only* the documents specified. In 2000, only about one in 25 filers claiming the EIC were asked to submit additional documentation, including requests to resolve Social Security number discrepancies.

**Exception:** Workers whose EIC claim was disallowed in a previous year, but who now claim they are eligible, must attach Form 8862, “Information to Claim Earned Income Credit After Disallowance,” to their tax return in order to submit a new claim.

## EIC and Social Security Numbers

### *Who needs a Social Security number?*

Valid Social Security numbers must be provided for *everyone* listed on the tax return, *including infants born before December 31, 2001*. Only valid Social Security numbers issued to U.S. citizens or Social Security numbers issued to non-citizens who have permission to work legally in the United States are acceptable. *For more information see p. 13 of this booklet*. The IRS now verifies the Social Security number of every adult claiming the EIC, as well as the Social Security number of every child in families claiming the EIC, before it sends out EIC payments. The IRS also checks to make sure that no child is claimed more than once.

The processing of an EIC claim and the receipt of any refund will be delayed if the tax return or Schedule EIC is incomplete or contains incorrect information. Electronically-filed returns will be rejected by the computer if a Social Security number is missing or the name and number do not match. Workers who file paper returns with missing or mismatched Social Security numbers will be sent a notice by the IRS stating that the return was incomplete and requesting that the missing information be mailed in. This can delay processing several weeks.

It also is important to be sure that each name and Social Security number is recorded on the tax return *exactly* as it appears on the person’s Social Security card. For example, if a woman records her married name on the tax return, but her Social Security card bears only her maiden name, the discrepancy will need to be resolved before the tax return can be processed. (To avoid such an error, the woman can apply to the Social Security Administration to have her name changed on her Social Security card. Correcting this discrepancy also will help ensure that Social Security taxes are being deposited in the proper account.)

### ***Workers who don’t have Social Security numbers for their children by the tax filing deadline can still get the EIC by:***

- Filing their tax return without claiming the EIC and then, after receiving the Social Security number, filing an “amended return” (Form 1040X) and attaching Schedule EIC, **OR**
- Filing Form 4868 to request an extension on their tax filing deadline to August 15.

*To have an application for a Social Security number sent to your home, call 1-800-772-1213. Or call the Social Security Administration in your state to find out how to apply.*

## EIC and Non-Traditional Families

### *What are the rules about filing status?*

To get the EIC, workers can file as: “single,” “head of household” or “married filing jointly.” But the EIC is *not* available to taxpayers who file as “married filing separately.”

### *What if parents are separated but not divorced?*

Parents who are separated but not divorced often file as “married filing separately.” But if they file this way, neither parent can claim the EIC. Separated parents have the option of filing as “married filing jointly.” If they do so, they can claim the EIC.

In addition, there is *one* situation in which a separated parent can claim the EIC but not have to file jointly with the other parent — the parents must have lived apart for the last six months of the year **and** their child must have lived with one of them for more than half of the year. **Also**, the parent now living with the child must have paid more than half the cost of maintaining the

household for the year and be able to claim the child as a dependent. Under these circumstances, that parent can file as “head of household” and claim the EIC. This option can be important, for example, to workers who are victims of domestic violence or whose separated spouse is not cooperative.

### *What if the parents in a family are divorced?*

If parents are divorced, the parent with whom the child lived for more than half the year is entitled to file for the EIC, even if the other parent claims the child as a dependent on his or her tax return. (The parent not living with the child may be eligible for the smaller EIC for workers without qualifying children.) If *both* parents lived with the child for more than six months, only the parent with the higher adjusted gross income can claim the EIC.

### *What if both parents and their child live together, but the parents are not married?*

If the parents are not married, the child can only be a qualifying child for the EIC for one of them. The parent with the highest income must be the one to claim the EIC.

**Remember!** If the parent with the highest income decides not to claim the EIC — or has income too high to qualify for the EIC — the other parent still is not allowed to claim the EIC.

### *What about a three-generation household: a grandparent, parent and child?*

In a three-generation household, only one person can claim the EIC, even if more than one family member works and has an income that would qualify for the credit. The person with the highest adjusted gross income must be the one who claims the EIC. If that income is too high to qualify, nobody in the household can claim the credit.

**For example:** If a mother and a grandmother both work, and the grandmother earns a higher salary, the grandmother must be the one to claim the grandchild as a “qualifying child” and apply for the EIC. But, if the grandmother’s income is over the EIC limit, then no one in the household can claim the EIC.

### *What about child support?*

Child support payments a parent receives do not count as income when determining eligibility for the EIC or the amount of the EIC.

### *What about foster families?*

Congress passed legislation which changed the definition of a foster child for purposes of determining a qualifying child for the Earned Income Credit. The change went into effect beginning in tax year 2000. Under the new definition a foster child is:

- a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister — or a descendant of such relatives (such as a child or adopted child), *or*
- a child placed with the worker by an authorized placement agency, such as a licensed foster care agency, state agency or court.

Such children must live with the worker the entire 12 months of the tax year and meet the EIC age requirements for a qualifying child (or is totally and permanently disabled if above the age limits).

Examples of children who now may not be claimed for the EIC, *unless formally placed with the worker by an authorized placement agency*, include cousins, the child of a friend who is unable to raise the child him or herself, or a disabled adult.



Foster care payments, either from the state or from an independent foster care agency, do not count as income when determining eligibility for the EIC. A foster parent may claim a foster child for the EIC even if unable to claim the child as a dependent.

## EIC and Disabled Workers

### *Can a person who receives disability benefits get the EIC?*

A person who receives long-term, employer-paid disability benefits and is under minimum retirement age can qualify for the EIC, even if he or she did not work during the tax year. (Minimum retirement age is considered to be the earliest age at which a worker can receive a pension or annuity if he or she is not disabled.) Such disability benefits are considered taxable income, are reported as wages on tax returns, and are considered earned income for purposes of the EIC.

Benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance, SSI, and payments from individually-purchased disability insurance policies are not counted as earned income. To be eligible for the EIC, individuals who receive these types of benefits also must have earned income.

A totally and permanently disabled person of any age can be a “qualifying child” for a worker. But a totally and permanently disabled person eligible for the EIC may not claim the credit if he or she is claimed as a qualifying child by another worker. Also, if the disabled person is not related to the worker claiming the EIC, he or she must meet the new definition of a foster child described in the previous section, which requires an authorized agency to have placed the disabled person in the care of the worker.

## EIC and Immigrant Workers

### *Can immigrant workers get the EIC?*

Many legal immigrants who are employed can get the EIC. Changes in federal law that deny public benefits such as food stamps and SSI to many legal immigrants do not apply to the EIC. *In order to claim the EIC, immigrant workers, their spouses, and children listed on Schedule EIC must each have valid Social Security numbers that permit them to work legally in the United States.* Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) issued by the IRS to non-citizens, and non-work Social Security numbers issued to applicants or recipients of federally funded benefits programs *cannot be used* to claim the EIC. *(Note: An ITIN can be used to claim the new Child Tax Credit refund. See the booklet in this kit, “Facts About the New Child Tax Credit.”)*

In addition, an immigrant must be a “resident alien for tax purposes” for the entire tax year to claim the EIC. An immigrant who was a non-resident alien at any time during the year cannot claim the EIC unless he or she:

- was married to a U.S. citizen or a resident alien as of December 31 of the tax year, and
- files a joint tax return with the spouse and chooses to be treated as a resident alien for the entire year.

*For more information, see IRS Publication 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens.*

Immigrants who are “resident aliens for tax purposes” may be legal permanent residents, meaning they have a “green card” (I-551 card). However, many legal immigrants who do not yet have their “green cards” may still be resident aliens for tax purposes. For example, the following immigrants might qualify for the EIC *if they and family members have legal work authorization*:

- Amnesty temporary residents and amnesty family members granted “Family Fairness” or “Family Unity” status.



- Refugees, asylees and those granted Temporary Protected Status.
- Applicants for these and other immigration statuses who have legal work authorization.

**Remember!** Immigrant workers' children must have lived with them in the United States for more than six months out of the year (12 months for a foster child) to be considered qualifying children for the EIC. Also, the worker's main home must be in the United States.

### *Can immigrant workers get the Advance EIC payment?*

Generally, yes. But some workers (whether they are immigrants or not) are not allowed to use the Advance EIC. They include farm workers and others who get paid day-by-day and people who don't have Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from their pay.

### *Can immigrant workers who obtain legal work status claim the EIC for a previous year?*

Workers who otherwise met all the EIC eligibility requirements in previous years, and later obtain legal work status from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), may be able to claim the EIC for up to three previous years. A worker's spouse or qualifying children, if any, must also have legal work status. After receiving legal work status from the INS, the worker, spouse and qualifying children must obtain Social Security numbers. Such workers may claim the EIC by amending their tax return for the previous year, even if they had been denied the EIC in that year because they had not yet obtained a valid Social Security number. Or workers can file an original return for the previous year if they had not already done so. *For more information see IRS National Office Chief Counsel Advice Memorandum, CCA 2000028034, "Claiming Previously Denied Earned Income Credit due to Invalid Social Security Numbers," June 9, 2000. Contact the IRS at (202) 622-6060.*

### *Does getting the EIC cause problems for immigrant workers?*

The EIC does not create "public charge" problems for immigrant workers. Receiving the EIC is not considered an indication that the immigrant is unable to support him or herself financially.

In general, information on a tax return is confidential. Except in rare cases involving federal criminal investigations or when the IRS thinks someone is breaking a tax law, tax return information cannot be shared with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

*For more information about which immigrant workers qualify for the EIC, how to obtain Social Security numbers and other immigrant tax issues, call the National Immigration Law Center at (213) 639-3900.*

## **EIC and Military Personnel**

### *Can military personnel claim the EIC?*

Yes. Military personnel can claim the EIC, whether they live in the United States or overseas, but some special circumstances are important to note.

Combat pay and allowances for housing and subsistence — including the value of meals and lodging furnished in-kind to personnel residing on military bases — are considered earned income for EIC purposes even though some of these sources of income may be nontaxable. Such pay and allowances are included on W-2 forms, making it easier to calculate earned income. Veterans' benefits, and military retirement pay are not considered earned income.

An eligible individual in the military on extended active duty stationed outside of the United States who lives with his or her qualifying children can get the EIC. In addition, military personnel stationed overseas whose qualifying children remain in the United States still can claim these children as qualifying children for EIC purposes. The IRS considers the individual assigned to an overseas tour of duty to be temporarily absent due to a special circumstance. The individual may be eligible for the EIC, as long as he or she plans to return to his or her main home in the United States at the end of the military assignment. Married couples living apart due to military assignment still must file a joint return to receive the EIC.

An individual in the military may be the qualifying child of another worker claiming the EIC. If such an individual is temporarily absent due to an overseas military assignment, he or she still may be considered a qualifying child as long as he or she intends to return home at the end of the military assignment.

*For further information on EIC rules for military personnel, see IRS Publication 3 “Tax Information for Military Personnel (Including Reservists Called to Active Duty).”*

## **The EIC can help workers pay for college**

College students who also work and are raising children may be eligible to claim the EIC. Students between ages 25 and 64 who are not raising children and who work may also be eligible. Parents of full-time students under age 24 may also be able to claim the EIC.

- Non-taxable scholarships and grants are *not* considered income in determining eligibility for the EIC; *taxable* grants and scholarships also are not considered “earned income,” but are included in determining “adjusted gross income,” which may affect eligibility for the EIC.
- An EIC refund is counted as family income in determining financial aid eligibility. However, for many low-income students who work, or their parents, the EIC will have no effect on financial aid amounts or eligibility. *For more information, contact a college financial aid office.*

*For information on which scholarships and grants are taxable or non-taxable, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. For ideas on EIC outreach to students, call the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at (202) 408-1080 or visit the website at <http://www.cbpp.org/eic2002>, to obtain the fact sheet, “Ten Ways Your College or University Can Promote the EIC.”*

# Efforts to Control EIC Errors and Overpayments



In recent years, reports of error and fraud in the EIC have been a cause for concern. The IRS has developed new tools to reduce fraud and error, such as establishing new procedures to validate Social Security numbers listed on tax returns, altering problematic procedures for obtaining refund anticipation loans, and cracking down on unscrupulous tax preparers.

It is important to note that most EIC errors are related to the complex and sometimes contradictory rules that the tax code establishes with regard to family relationships, tax filing status and the tax treatment of children, especially when parents are divorced or separated. Simplification of EIC and other tax rules related to such families might lower EIC errors significantly.

## Overview of Existing Measures to Control Error in EIC Claims

In September 2000, the IRS announced the introduction of several new procedures to improve EIC compliance. These procedures are currently being implemented.

**Notices to noncustodial parents who claim the EIC.** The largest source of EIC errors is claims by taxpayers for children who do not live with them for more than six months of the year (12 months for foster children). In the 2001 tax filing season, the IRS sent notices explaining the EIC residency rules to noncustodial parents who had claimed the EIC the previous year, in order to prevent continued erroneous claims. The IRS is now utilizing a database containing information from the Federal Case Registry of Child Support Orders to select potentially erroneous claims by noncustodial parents for further examination. This database indicates whether a taxpayer claiming a child for the EIC is actually the noncustodial parent, and will permit more efficient enforcement of EIC eligibility rules.

**Matching taxpayer names and Social Security numbers.** Married workers claiming the EIC must provide valid Social Security numbers for both spouses. The IRS will automatically deny EIC claims if the Social Security number of either spouse provided on the tax return does not match Social Security records. In the past, the IRS matched names and Social Security numbers for the primary wage earner, but not the spouse. Names and numbers are matched for children.

**Stricter enforcement of EIC compliance by commercial tax preparers.** In 1997, IRS was provided the authority to penalize tax preparers who fail to fulfill “due diligence” requirements and, as a result, file erroneous EIC claims. This measure was designed to encourage preparers to become more vigilant when filing tax returns claiming the EIC. A priority of IRS compliance efforts by regional staff, beginning in 2000, has been to visit commercial tax preparers to ensure their understanding of EIC eligibility rules and their responsibilities. Preparers with higher rates of filing errors are revisited to determine whether they have improved their adherence to EIC rules or if penalties should be imposed upon them.

*Additional compliance measures in place since 1997:*

**Penalties for fraud and negligence in connection with EIC claims.** In addition to existing penalties against negligent and fraudulent tax claims, the following new penalties were added:

- A person who erroneously claims the EIC due to “reckless or intentional disregard” of the tax rules and regulations is denied eligibility for the EIC for two subsequent years.
- A person who fraudulently claims the EIC is denied eligibility for the EIC for ten subsequent years.

These penalties mean that people who improperly claimed the EIC through “reckless or intentional disregard” of tax rules or through fraud will be unable to claim the EIC in subsequent years even if they otherwise become eligible. The penalties can be appealed through IRS procedures and challenged in court.

Normal errors in computing the amount of the EIC or honest misunderstandings of the EIC eligibility rules are not considered fraud or negligence by the IRS.

**Efforts to prevent EIC refunds from going to ineligible claimants.** If a worker submits a claim for the EIC and is found not eligible (for reasons other than an incorrect Social Security number or a math error), the IRS now can avoid erroneously issuing a future EIC payment if that worker claims the EIC in a following year. To claim the EIC in a subsequent year, the worker must complete and attach Form 8862 to provide the IRS additional evidence to prove his or her current eligibility.

In 1996, legislation was enacted to strengthen IRS powers to deny questionable EIC claims and to ensure that immigrants not authorized to work (including undocumented immigrants) cannot get the EIC. *For information about these rules, see p. 9 in this booklet, refer to the sections about Social Security numbers and about Immigrant Workers.*

# Making the Case: Talking Points on the EIC



As you work on your EIC campaign, you will come in contact with people who don't know a lot about the credit and why it is important.

These "talking points" will help you answer questions about the EIC. They can be useful when you are advocating for the EIC with community leaders, with organizations you want in your campaign, or with businesses and funders. They can also be helpful in preparing remarks for the media.

## Why is the EIC important?

- The EIC is a federal tax benefit designed to help low-income workers increase their financial stability. It has several important purposes: to reduce taxes for these workers, to supplement wages, and to make work more attractive than welfare.
- The EIC is a federally funded, anti-poverty initiative that helps working people maintain their independence from the welfare system. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, indicate that in 1999, the EIC lifted 4.7 million people above the federal poverty line — including 2.6 million children of low-income workers.
- In 2000, over 19.2 million working families and individuals received the credit.

## Who benefits from the EIC?

### *Working families with children*

- Children are more likely to be poor than Americans of any other age group. The largest EIC benefit is for working families with two or more children.
- Raising children these days is expensive. The EIC can help offset the costs of child care, clothing, school supplies, and other needs.

### *Low-income workers who do not have a qualifying child*

- This credit provides a financial boost to people who work at very low wages or are only able to find part-time work: day laborers, migrant workers, temporary employees, homeless people, general assistance recipients who worked part of the year and others. About 3 million workers received this credit for tax year 1999. This part of the EIC first took effect in 1994.

### *State and local economies*

- EIC participation boosts state and local economies. In the first eight months of 2001 alone, nearly \$31 billion in federal EIC funds flowed into the states.
- Since most EIC benefits are spent locally, the EIC is an economic development tool for low-income neighborhoods.
- By increasing the income of low-wage earners, the EIC can reduce the demand for some public services and benefit programs provided by state and local governments.

## *Businesses*

- Helping customers get the EIC is a legitimate and important business activity. Research indicates that 80 percent of EIC recipients plan to use their credit to help pay immediate bills, such as rent or utilities, or to pay for better housing, transportation or educational needs. The Advance EIC payment option can help workers stay current with their monthly household bills.
- Businesses make a valuable contribution to their communities by promoting the EIC.
- EIC benefits increase the take-home pay of employees at no cost to the business. Helping employees support themselves and their families can reduce turnover in the workplace.

## **Other important issues related to the EIC**

### *The EIC is different from welfare*

- When welfare recipients get a job, their benefits are likely to shrink or disappear. In contrast, the EIC rewards people who find and keep a job by adding to the wages they earn.
- The EIC does not require a caseworker or a trip to the welfare office. Eligible workers apply by filing a tax return.

### *Free tax preparation and 'quick refunds'*

- When low-income people pay to have their taxes prepared, the value of their EIC is diminished. This undermines the basic objectives of the EIC.
- Research shows that 60 percent of EIC recipients pay someone to prepare their tax returns. Fewer than one in 10 have their tax forms prepared for free by VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Increasing awareness about VITA and improving access to these services is critical.
- Many people who use commercial tax preparers to get a “quick refund” — a refund they receive in just a few days — don’t realize that what they’re getting, and paying for, is a very high-interest loan from the tax preparer. *For more about this issue, see p. 8 in the booklet in this kit, “Helping Workers Claim the Tax Credits They’ve Earned.”*

### *Immigrant workers*

- Recent immigrants are often the poorest members of our communities. They take jobs that pay low wages and struggle to support themselves and their families. Changes in federal law made some legal immigrants ineligible for public benefits such as food stamps and Medicaid. *But, many legal immigrant workers still are eligible for the EIC.* For these reasons, educating immigrant workers about the EIC is important. *For more on this issue, see p. 13 of this booklet.*



# The EIC and Asset Development Strategies



Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) have emerged in the last few years as a new way for low-wage workers to develop a substantial savings account. IDAs are “matched savings accounts,” in which savings deposits made by a worker are matched by contributions from IDA program funds. Organizations administering IDA programs use federal or state funds authorized for IDAs, and additional funds from foundations and financial institutions, to supply the match.

IDA accounts are designed to enable workers to obtain a valuable asset, such as a downpayment on a home, college education or job training, a computer, a car, or small business financing. Low-wage workers often experience great frustration with the long time it takes to save enough to meet these goals. The matched savings feature of IDA accounts responds to this concern by helping depositors build their savings more quickly.

A limit is generally placed on the amount workers may deposit each year and also on the total amount that can be deposited. Since IDA programs are supported by a variety of sources and administered locally, the match rates and maximum deposit rules vary by program.

## How the EIC Fits In

Even with the enticement of matching contributions, low-income workers may have difficulty saving part of their wages for long-range goals. EIC refunds — and Advance EIC payments in worker paychecks — can make it more feasible for them to make the modest monthly deposits typically required in an IDA program. EIC refunds themselves are permitted to be deposited in IDA accounts.

A recent study of EIC recipients by the Center for Policy Research at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University, found that almost one-half of those surveyed said they planned to save some or all of their EIC refund check, rather than use it all to pay bills or make immediate purchases. Respondents mentioned asset-building goals, such as paying tuition or purchasing or repairing a car as priority uses for their EIC.

The IDA match can multiply a worker’s own savings — doubling, tripling or even quadrupling the amount they deposit, depending on the IDA program and the purpose for which the worker has designated the IDA account.

For example, the weekly take-home pay of a full-time worker with three children who earns \$7 per hour (about \$14,500 per year) is about \$250. If the worker saves five percent of his or her weekly take-home pay — about \$12 each week or nearly \$50 each month — the annual savings comes to \$624. Over three years, the worker will have saved \$1,870. But, in an IDA account that matches two dollars for each dollar saved by the worker, those savings multiply to more than \$5,500, not counting interest on the account.

While this worker might struggle even to save \$50 per month, the EIC can help take the pressure off. For work in 2001, this person would be eligible for an EIC worth \$3,700. He or she could also opt to receive Advance EIC payments totaling nearly \$100 in additional take-home pay each month, allowing IDA deposits to be made without pinching household income.

## Some Asset Development Programs

Asset development programs for low-income workers are taking hold around the country. Following are some of the most notable and how to find out more about them.

Two organizations lead national efforts to develop IDA programs and other asset development policies: The Corporation for Enterprise Development in Washington, D.C. at (202) 408-9788, and the Center for Social Development, at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri at (314) 935-7433. Their websites are provided below.

**The IDA network.** Successful federally supported IDA demonstration programs, such as the Assets for Independence Act (AFIA) administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, have spurred a rapidly growing network of organizations that administer IDA programs. IDA programs already exist in about 250 communities across the nation. *For more information, visit the Corporation for Enterprise Development website at [www.cfed.org](http://www.cfed.org).*

**IDAs for people who receive public benefits.** Federal welfare law permits states to design IDA programs to benefit welfare recipients beginning the transition to employment. States may use their TANF block grant funds to support IDA programs. Individual savings and matching contributions in accounts under IDA programs which meet the requirements of federal welfare law (or IDAs in the AFIA demonstration program) do not affect a person's eligibility, or benefit amount, for cash assistance and other public benefit programs. Assets in other types of IDAs, however, are not necessarily excluded as a resource in determining eligibility for benefit programs such as welfare or food stamps. *For more information, see "How Do IDAs Affect Benefit Eligibility?" by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at [www.cbpp.org/9-27-01wel.pdf](http://www.cbpp.org/9-27-01wel.pdf). For information and contacts regarding state IDA policies, visit the website of the Center for Social Development at [gubweb.wustl.edu/csd/statepolicy](http://gubweb.wustl.edu/csd/statepolicy).*

**IDAs for refugees.** The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided grant funding in 2000 for 29 nonprofit organizations in 18 states to develop IDA programs for low-income refugees. *For more information about the Refugee Individual Development Account Program, contact Henley Portner, Office of Refugee Resettlement, (202) 401-5363 or at [hportner@acf.dhhs.gov](mailto:hportner@acf.dhhs.gov).*

**Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS).** FSS is a program that promotes employment and increased savings among families that have Section 8 housing vouchers or live in public housing. Under the FSS program, a tenant agrees with the local housing agency to reach certain employment and training goals designed to achieve independence from welfare assistance. Under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules, as the tenant earns more from employment, the tenant's rent payments will increase. But the FSS participant can get a refund of some or all of her increased rental charges in an amount equal to about 30 percent of the tenant's increased income. This amount is deposited by the housing agency into an FSS escrow account established for the tenant. Local housing agencies administer FSS programs, and HUD reimburses them for the escrow deposits. When the tenant meets the stated goals of the FSS agreement, the tenant receives the full amount in his or her escrow account, plus interest, with no maximum limit. There is no requirement to use the funds for a particular purpose. Some families accumulate as much as \$10,000 in their escrow accounts; the average received by families completing the program is nearly \$5,000. *For more information, see "The Family Self-Sufficiency Program" at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities website at [www.cbpp.org/4-12-01hous.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/4-12-01hous.htm).*

# Saver's Tax Credit for 2002: Workers Can Save for Retirement And Reduce Income Taxes



In 2001, Congress enacted a new tax credit to encourage workers to make contributions to a retirement plan or Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Workers can receive a tax credit worth up to 50 percent of a maximum \$2,000 contribution. Married workers may each make the maximum contribution. *The Saver's Tax Credit goes into effect for contributions made during 2002, not those already made in 2001* — but the information presented here can help workers make decisions about starting contributions to retirement plans early in 2002. This may be particularly valuable for workers in areas where matched-savings plans, such as Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), are not available or when saving for retirement is a higher priority for a family than the uses that qualify for matched savings in an IDA.

The new credit will reduce or eliminate a worker's income tax but, unlike the Earned Income Credit, workers who owe no income tax will not benefit from the Saver's Tax Credit. However, low- and moderate-income workers with children may see increased benefits from the EIC and the new Child Tax Credit when they make pre-tax contributions to a retirement account and take advantage of the Saver's Tax Credit. Here's why:

- Beginning in 2002, non-taxable earned income will no longer be counted in figuring the EIC. Most EIC claimants who also make pre-tax salary deductions for retirement are in the "phase-down" range of the EIC where EIC amounts decrease as taxable income increases. Therefore, since the salary deductions for retirement reduce the worker's taxable income, the worker will qualify for a larger EIC.
- The Saver's Tax Credit reduces or eliminates the income tax a worker may owe. If that worker also qualifies for the new Child Tax Credit, less of that credit will need to go toward reducing income tax liability and more will be available for a refund to the worker.

**Example:** Randy and Meg expect to earn \$24,000 in 2002 and have two children attending college. They ordinarily would owe income tax of \$415 and would qualify for an EIC of \$2,143. After paying income tax, their EIC refund would be worth \$1,728 (\$2,143 - \$415). However, during 2002 they plan to make pre-tax salary reduction contributions of \$1,000 to Meg's retirement plan at work. This reduces their taxable income to \$23,000, and lowers their income tax by \$100 to \$315. Beginning in 2002, only their taxable earned income will be considered in calculating the EIC; thus, they will qualify for a higher EIC of \$2,354, an increase of \$211. And, they can take the Saver's Tax Credit, worth up to 50 percent of their contribution amount, or as much as \$500. The Saver's Tax Credit eliminates their \$315 income tax, and they still receive their EIC of \$2,354. *Overall, by making the \$1,000 contribution to Meg's retirement account and taking the Saver's Tax Credit, the couple gets a tax benefit of \$626. (Their original income tax amount was reduced by \$100 and then the remaining \$315 was eliminated, for a total reduction of \$415. In addition, by reducing their taxable income, they were able to claim an EIC that was \$211 higher than it would have been originally: \$415 + \$211 = \$626.)*

## Who Is Eligible to Claim the Saver's Tax Credit?

The credit may be claimed for 2002 by taxpayers who:

- are age 18 or older,
- are not full-time students,
- are not claimed as a dependent on someone else's return; and
- have adjusted gross income in 2001 no higher than these amounts:
  - \$50,000 if married filing jointly
  - \$37,000 if filing as head of household
  - \$25,000 if filing single, or married filing separately

## What Retirement Contributions Qualify for the Saver's Tax Credit?

Contributions workers elect to make through salary reduction to a variety of employer-administered retirement plans are eligible for the credit, as are contributions to both traditional and Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Salary reduction contributions made to the following types of plans are eligible:

- a 401(k) plan, including a SIMPLE 401(k)
- a section 403(b) annuity
- an eligible deferred compensation plan of a state or local government (a "governmental 457 plan")
- a SIMPLE IRA plan
- a salary reduction SEP (simplified employee pension)

Individuals entitled to deduct IRA contributions may still do so and also claim the Saver's Tax Credit. Voluntary after-tax contributions to a qualified retirement plan or 403(b) annuity also qualify for the Saver's Tax Credit.

## How Is the Amount of the Saver's Tax Credit Figured?

The credit can range from 10 percent to 50 percent of the worker's contribution to retirement, based upon the worker's adjusted gross income for the tax year. In the example of Randy and Meg above, their taxable income of \$23,000 as married joint filers qualifies them for a credit worth 50 percent of their \$1,000 contribution.

<u>Adjusted Gross Income</u>			<b>Credit</b>
<b>Married filing joint</b>	<b>Head of household</b>	<b>All other filers</b>	
\$0 - \$30,000	\$0 - \$22,500	\$0 - \$15,000	50% of contribution
\$30,001 - \$32,500	\$22,501 - \$24,375	\$15,001 - \$16,250	20% of contribution
\$32,501 - \$50,000	\$24,376 - \$37,500	\$16,251 - \$25,000	10% of contribution
Over \$50,000	Over \$37,500	wOver \$25,000	credit not available

## How do Workers Claim the Saver's Tax Credit?

Since the credit does not take effect until 2002, the IRS instructions for Form 1040 and 1040A for the 2002 tax year will contain the specific directions to compute the credit on a worker's tax return.

*For additional information, see the IRS Announcement 2001-106, "Saver's Tax Credit for Contributions by Individuals to Employer Retirement Plans and IRAs," at: [ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-drop/a-01-106.pdf](http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-drop/a-01-106.pdf)*

## EIC Benefits for Tax Year 2001 at Various Income Levels

This is not a tax table. Do not use this table to complete income tax returns.

2001 household income	EIC for workers not raising a child	EIC for workers raising one child	EIC for workers raising two or more children
\$500	\$40	\$179	\$210
1,000	.78	.349	.410
1,500	.117	.519	.610
2,000	.155	.689	.810
2,500	.193	.859	1,010
3,000	.231	1,029	1,210
3,500	.270	1,199	1,410
4,000	.308	1,369	1,610
4,500	.346	1,539	1,810
5,000	.364	1,709	2,010
5,500	.364	1,879	2,210
6,000	.358	2,049	2,410
6,500	.320	2,219	2,610
7,000	.282	2,389	2,810
7,500	.244	2,428	3,010
8,000	.205	2,428	3,210
8,500	.167	2,428	3,410
9,000	.129	2,428	3,610
9,500	.91	2,428	3,810
10,000	.52	2,428	4,008
10,500	.14	2,428	4,008
11,000	.0	2,428	4,008
11,500	.0	2,428	4,008
12,000	.0	2,428	4,008
12,500	.0	2,428	4,008
13,000	.0	2,428	4,008
13,500	.0	2,358	3,916
14,000	.0	2,278	3,811
14,500	.0	2,198	3,706
15,000	.0	2,118	3,600
15,500	.0	2,038	3,495
16,000	.0	1,959	3,390
16,500	.0	1,879	3,285
17,000	.0	1,799	3,179
17,500	.0	1,719	3,074
18,000	.0	1,639	2,969
18,500	.0	1,559	2,863
19,000	.0	1,471	2,758
19,500	.0	1,399	2,653
20,000	.0	1,319	2,547
20,500	.0	1,239	2,442
21,000	.0	1,160	2,337
21,500	.0	1,080	2,232
22,000	.0	1,000	2,126
22,500	.0	.920	2,021
23,000	.0	.840	1,916
23,500	.0	.760	1,810
24,000	.0	.680	1,705
24,500	.0	.600	1,600
25,000	.0	.520	1,494
26,000	.0	.361	1,284
27,000	.0	.201	1,073
28,000	.0	.41	.863
29,000	.0	.0	.652
30,000	.0	.0	.441
32,000	.0	.0	.20

Center on Budget & Policy Priorities

820 First Street, NE

Suite 510

Washington, DC 20002

202.408.1080

202.408.1056 fax