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The Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and African Americans

Analysis of data from the Census Bureau, IRS, and the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis shows that:

- More than 5 million African American workers with nearly 7 million children claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in tax year 2013.
- About 3.5 million African American working families with children claimed refunds averaging about \$1,300 through the low-income (or refundable) portion of the Child Tax Credit.
- If key provisions of the EITC and Child Tax Credit are allowed to expire at the end of 2017, 2 million black working families will lose an average of about \$1,000 each.
- These provisions are particularly important to African American families. In 2013, African Americans made up 12 percent of the U.S. population but 19 percent of the working poor.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Figures reflect Census-based estimates of the percentage distributions of affected persons by race and ethnicity (based on a CBPP analysis of demographic data and Census-estimated tax credits in the U.S. Census Bureau's March 2014 Current Population Survey public use file) multiplied by total actual numbers of filers from preliminary IRS data for 2013, or (for the expiring 2009 provisions) multiplied by estimates of total filers affected by these provisions in 2015 as estimated in April 2015 by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Tax Analysis. Figures are for tax filers identifying themselves as black or African American alone, excluding those who are bi-racial, multi-racial, or Hispanic.