

### What If You Were Eligible, But Did Not File for EITCs Last Year?

Families that were eligible for EITCs in the past two years, but didn't file for them, may receive them retroactively by filing amended Federal and New York State income tax forms and filing a New York State Tax Form IT-215 for those years.

### What Other Tax Credits Are Available?

- Federal Child Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit
- New York's Empire State Child Credit
- Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- New York's Child and Dependent Care Credit
- Noncustodial Parent New York State Earned Income Tax Credit
- Education Credits:
  - The Federal Hope Credit or Lifetime Learning Credit
  - New York's College Tuition Credit or Itemized Deduction

Please contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or NYS at 1-800-225-5829 for more information on these other tax credits.



### Where Can You Get Tax Forms?

Tax forms are available at libraries, post offices and local banks.

Federal forms are also available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) by clicking on "More Forms and Publications."

New York State forms are available at [www.tax.state.ny.us](http://www.tax.state.ny.us) by clicking on "Find forms and instructions."

### Where Do You Call If You Have More Questions?

For information and help filing your federal taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

For help with NYS taxes, call: 1-800-225-5829.

Families can also receive help by visiting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) center. To find a VITA Center near you, call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-906-9887 or visit [www.otda.state.ny.us/main/reform/vitasites.asp](http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/reform/vitasites.asp).

For More Information  
Visit  
[www.otda.state.ny.us](http://www.otda.state.ny.us)  
and click on  
"Resources for Working Families"



State of New York  
David A. Paterson, Governor

New York State  
Office of Temporary and  
Disability Assistance

[www.otda.state.ny.us](http://www.otda.state.ny.us)

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## Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

# Can Go a Long Way To Help You and Your Family



Because You've  
Earned It!

# The Earned Income Tax Credits – Helping You Make Ends Meet When Money is Tight! For Families Earning Less Than \$48,279.\*

The Federal, New York State, and New York City Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) are tax credits you can claim based on the money you earn from your job. The amounts vary, depending on your marital status, family's earned income, and number of qualified children. Even if you do not owe taxes you may still be eligible for this refund.



Imagine Getting an Extra Refund ... And What it Could Mean for You and Your Family!

## Eligibility Guidelines\*

Number of Qualifying Children	May Be Eligible for up to:
0	\$594
1	\$3,955
2	\$6,536
3	\$7,354

Visit [www.myBenefits.ny.gov](http://www.myBenefits.ny.gov) and use the prescreening tool that will show you how valuable the credits can be to you.

*\* Based on 2009 Income Levels. Income levels change annually; this is just a guide.*

## How Do You Know If Your Children Qualify?

A "Qualifying Child" is:

- A child who is your son, daughter, grandchild, adopted child, stepchild, foster child, sibling, stepsibling or a descendent of one of these relatives; and
- Who (at the end of the year) was:
  - under age 19; or
  - Under age 24 and a full-time student; or
  - Any age, and permanently and totally disabled; and
- Who lived with you in the United States for more than half of the year.

EITC money can:

- Help pay for rent, heat and current or past bills.
- Purchase school clothing, school supplies or sports equipment for your children.
- Make improvements to your home.
- Purchase an automobile or buy a more reliable one.
- Buy a computer for you and your children.
- Open a savings account at a bank.

Best of all, EITC money usually does not affect temporary assistance, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, public housing or Medicaid benefits – it's there to help you make ends meet and stretch your hard-earned paycheck!



## What Do You Do If You Have More Questions?

You can call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040.

## What Do You Do If You Need Help With Your Taxes?

Don't pay to have your taxes prepared. If you qualify, you can get your refund just as quickly, without ANY fees, by visiting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center.

To find a VITA Center near you, call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-906-9887 or visit [www.otda.state.ny.us/main/reform/vitasites.asp](http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/reform/vitasites.asp).

## How Do You Get Your EITC Money?

There are two different ways to get your money:

1. You may claim the entire EITC all at once after you file your tax forms.
2. You can also get a portion of the Federal EITC, in advance, with each paycheck. This can be up to \$150 per month and you receive the rest, in excess of the taxes you owe, in one lump-sum payment. Ask your employer for the Federal form W-5-EIC Advance Payment Certificate.

## What Forms Are Required?

The EITC is based on the money you earn from your job. You must file income tax forms, even if you owe no taxes, to receive the EITCs.

If you are raising "Qualifying Children" you will need to use Federal Tax Form 1040, (or 1040A) and attach Schedule EIC. To claim the New York State and/or New York City EITCs you must also file a New York State tax return (forms IT-201 or IT-150) and attach the NYS Tax Form IT-215.

If you are not raising children, you may still qualify.