

EIC and the Child Tax Credit

What is EIC?

The EIC is a tax credit for certain people who work and have earned income under an amount determined by the IRS each year. A tax credit will reduce the amount of tax you owe. The EIC may also give you a refund.

Earned Income Credit in a Nutshell

First, you must meet all the rules in this column.		Second, you must meet all the rules in one of these columns, whichever applies.		Third, you must meet the rule in this column.
Chapter 1. Rules for Everyone		Chapter 2. Rules if You Have a Qualifying Child	Chapter 3. Rules if You Do Not Have a Qualifying Child	Chapter 4. Figuring and Claiming the EIC
1. Your adjusted gross income (AGI) must be less than: • \$59,899 (\$66,819 for married filing jointly) if you have three or more qualifying children who have valid social security numbers (SSNs), • \$55,768 (\$62,688 for married filing jointly) if you have two qualifying children who have valid SSNs, • \$49,084 (\$56,004 for married filing jointly) if you have one qualifying child who has a valid SSN, or • \$18,591 (\$25,511 for married filing jointly) if you don't have a qualifying child who has a valid SSN.	2. You must have a valid social security number (SSN) by the due date of your 2024 return (including extensions). 3. You must meet certain requirements if you are separated from your spouse and not filing a joint return. 4. You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year. 5. You can't file Form 2555 (relating to foreign earned income). 6. Your investment income must be \$11,600 or less. 7. You must have earned income.	8. Your child must meet the relationship, age, residency, and joint return tests. 9. Your qualifying child can't be used by more than one person to claim the EIC. 10. You can't be a qualifying child of another person.	11. You must meet the age requirements. 12. You can't be the dependent of another person. 13. You can't be a qualifying child of another person. 14. You must have lived in the United States more than half of the year.	15. Your earned income must be less than: • \$59,899 (\$66,819 for married filing jointly) if you have three or more qualifying children who have valid SSNs, • \$55,768 (\$62,688 for married filing jointly) if you have two qualifying children who have valid SSNs, • \$49,084 (\$56,004 for married filing jointly) if you have one qualifying child who has a valid SSN, or • \$18,591 (\$25,511 for married filing jointly) if you don't have a qualifying child who has a valid SSN.

What is the Child Tax Credit?

The Child Tax Credit helps families with qualifying children get a tax break. You may be able to claim the credit even if you don't normally file a tax return.

To be a qualifying child for the 2024 tax year, your dependent generally must:

- Be under 17 at the end of the tax year.
- Be your son, daughter, stepchild, eligible foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, or a descendant of one of these (for example, a grandchild, niece or nephew).
- Not provide more than half of his or her own support for the tax year.
- Have lived with you for more than half the tax year.
- Be claimed as a dependent on your return.
- Not file a joint return for the year (or filed the joint return only to claim a refund of taxes withheld or estimated taxes).
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National or a U.S. resident alien.
- Must have a Social Security Number that is valid for employment and is issued before the due date of your tax return (including extensions).

You qualify for the full amount of the 2024 Child Tax Credit for each qualifying child if you meet all eligibility factors and your annual income is not more than \$200,000 (\$400,000 if filing a joint return).

Parents and guardians with higher incomes may be eligible to claim a partial credit.