

Sample article for organizations and employers (365 word count)

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Earned Income Tax Credit Can Put Money in Your Pocket

You could be eligible to get more money back from the IRS—as much as \$5,891.

If you earned less than \$50,000 from wages, self-employment or farming last year, you may qualify for a refundable tax credit called the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. But you must file a federal income tax return claiming the credit to get it.

EITC can be a boost for working people, their families and communities. Workers who experienced a drop in their earnings in 2012 may qualify for the first time.

The credit has been making the lives of workers a little easier for more than 37 years. Yet, for some eligible taxpayers, it remains little known, possibly because people move into and out of eligibility as their financial, marital and parental statuses change. IRS estimates four of five eligible workers claim and get their EITC.

Unlike other tax credits, both EITC eligibility and the amount of tax credit you are eligible for is based on several factors. These include, the amount of your income, or combined incomes if married, whether you have qualifying children and how many. Workers without children also may qualify.

Filing status and income limits determine the amount of the credit. You may qualify for EITC even if you had no federal tax withheld or are not otherwise required to file.

The credit is complex, but worth exploring. It's even more valuable if your state has a corresponding EITC tax credit.

- The online EITC Assistant at www.irs.gov/eitc can help determine your eligibility and estimate the amount of your credit. Free help is available at volunteer tax help sites. Locate a volunteer site by using the [VITA Locator tool](#). Counseling for the Elderly offers priority assistance to people who are 60 years of age and older. To find a TCE site, visit the [AARP locator web page](#).

Remember, you must file a federal income tax return, even if you are not otherwise required to file, and you must specifically claim the credit to get it if you are eligible. Find more information about EITC at www.irs.gov or in your tax software package.

According to the IRS, rural and non-traditional families such as grandparents raising grandchildren, childless workers and non-English speaking taxpayers are among those who most frequently overlook the credit.

NOTE TO EDITOR: The following are some helpful related resources on IRS.gov:

- Earned Income Tax Credit -- www.irs.gov/eitc
- several factors -- <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/EITC-For-Individuals>
- [EITC Assistant](#)
- States and Local Governments with Earned Income Tax Credit -- <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/States-and-Local-Governments-with-Earned-Income-Tax-Credit>

Sample Tweets:

- Earn \$50,000 or less last year? You may qualify for #EITC. Don't miss out, check it out at <http://go.usa.gov/1Jd> #IRS #taxes #refund
- If you work, #EITC can be a boost to you, your family, and your community. See if you qualify <http://go.usa.gov/1Jd> #IRS #tax #refund