

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers

Customize and post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles about the adoption credit.

Expanded Adoption Tax Credit is still available for October 15 Filers

If you adopted a child last year and requested an extension of time to file your 2011 taxes, you may be able to claim the expanded adoption credit on your federal tax return for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child.

Qualified adoption expenses are reasonable and necessary expenses directly related to the legal adoption of the child and may include adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees and travel expenses.

The adoption credit for tax year 2011 can be as much as \$13,360 per eligible child. If you adopt a U.S. child whom a state, county or the District of Columbia has determined has special needs, you may be entitled to the full credit regardless of whether you paid any actual qualified adoption expenses.

Here are some things to remember if you still need to file your 2011 tax return or amend your 2011 tax return:

- You can use [IRS Free File](#) or other software to prepare your return, but you must print and mail the tax return to the IRS, along with all required documentation.
- Required documents may include a final adoption decree, placement agreement from an authorized agency, court documents and/or the state's determination for special needs children.
- The credit for qualified adoption expenses is subject to income limitations, and may be reduced or eliminated depending on your income.
- You can get the credit as a tax refund even after your tax liability has been reduced to zero.
- To claim the credit, you must file a paper tax return and [Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses](#), and attach all supporting documents to your return.
- If you filed your tax return for 2011 and did not claim an allowable adoption credit, you can file an amended return to get a refund. Use [Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](#), along with Form 8839 and the required documents to claim the credit.

It is necessary for the IRS to review all documents submitted. Normally, it takes six to eight weeks to process a return claiming the adoption credit.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are helpful resources on Adoption tax credit on IRS.gov:

- [Adoption Benefits FAQs](#)
- [Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses \(PDF\)](#)
- [Instructions for Form 8839 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Publication 4903, Affordable Care Act Expands Adoption Tax Credit Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- [Form 1040X, Amended Federal Income Tax Return \(PDF\)](#)
- [Instructions for Form 1040X \(PDF\)](#)

Tweet: Find out what documentation is required to claim the #adoption #tax #credit <http://go.usa.gov/renT> #IRS