

# Procrastinating on your taxes because you're missing documents?



Here's where to find the info needed to **file a 2021 tax return.**

## Child Tax Credit or Recovery Rebate Credit

**About these credits:** Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, advance payments of up to half the 2021 Child Tax Credit and a separate third round of stimulus payments called Economic Impact Payments were sent to eligible taxpayers. To claim the full Child Tax Credit and any missing stimulus payments, you will need to **file a 2021 tax return.**

You will need **additional information** about the 2021 payments to reconcile **advance Child Tax Credit payments** or claim the **Recovery Rebate Credit** for missing stimulus payments to file an accurate tax return and avoid a processing delay.

You must have the total amounts readily available of any advance Child Tax Credit payments and third round Economic Impact Payments to accurately claim these credits and avoid processing delays when you file.

**Where to find the information to file:** You should check your IRS **Online Account** to get your advance payments total and number of qualifying children. While you can also refer to Letter 6419, *2021 Total Advance Child Tax Credit Payments*, and Letter 6475, *Your 2021 Economic Impact Payment*, Online Account has the most current information. Do not rely on tax transcripts for the advance payments total.

This information will help you file an accurate return. Married spouses who received joint advance payments will need to log into their own Online Account or review their own letter for their portion of the total advance payment. If filing a 2021 tax return as married filing jointly, you should add the advance payments together to provide the total amount.

## Earned Income Tax Credit

**About this credit:** If you are a low-to moderate-income worker, you may be eligible to claim the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**, a refundable tax credit. The amount of EITC you may claim depends on your filing status and how many qualifying children you claim on your tax return.

To claim the EITC, you must have income that qualifies as **earned income** and meet certain adjusted gross income and other requirements. Earned income includes all the taxable income and wages you get from working for someone else, yourself or from a business or farm you own.

**Changes that apply to the 2021 tax year:** You can elect to use your 2019 earned income to figure your 2021 EITC if your 2019 earned income is more than your 2021 earned income. This option may help you claim a larger EITC if you earned less in 2021.

**Where to find the information to file:** You can access **tax records or transcripts** of past tax returns in your IRS **Online Account** to get your 2019 earned income amount.

If you are unsure if you can claim the EITC, use the IRS's **EITC Assistant**.



There's no need to wait until the October 17 extension deadline. **You can file electronically as soon as you're ready.** Contact your tax professional or see filing information on **IRS.gov**.