Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Notice 1015

(Rev. December 2026)

Have You Told Your Employees About the Earned Income Credit (EIC)?

What Is the EIC?

The EIC is a refundable tax credit for certain workers.

Which Employees Must I Notify About the EIC?

You must notify each employee who worked for you at any time during the year and from whose wages you did not withhold income tax. However, you do not have to notify any employee who claimed exemption from withholding on Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate.

Note: You are encouraged to notify all employees whose wages for 2026 are less than $70,244 that they may be eligible for the EIC.

How and When Must I Notify My Employees?

You must give the employee one of the following.

- The IRS Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, which has the required information about the EIC on the back of Copy B.
- A substitute Form W-2 with the same EIC information on the back of the employee's copy that is on Copy B of the IRS Form W-2.
- Notice 797, Possible Federal Tax Refund Due to the Earned Income Credit (EIC).
- Your written statement with the same wording as Notice 797.

If you give an employee a Form W-2 on time, no further notice is necessary if the Form W-2 has the required information about the EIC on the back of the employee's copy. If you give an employee a substitute Form W-2 but it does not have the required information, you must notify the employee within 1 week of the date the substitute Form W-2 is given. If Form W-2 is required but is not given on time, you must give the employee Notice 797 or your written statement by the date Form W-2 is required to be given. If Form W-2 is not required, you must notify the employee by February 8, 2027.

You must hand the notice directly to the employee or send it by first-class mail to the employee's last known address. You will not meet the notification requirements by posting Notice 797 on an employee bulletin board or sending it through office mail. However, you may want to post the notice to help inform all employees of the EIC. You can download copies of the notice at *www.IRS.gov/FormsPubs*. Or you can go to *www.IRS.gov/OrderForms* to order it.

How Will My Employees Know if They Can Claim the EIC?

The basic requirements are covered in Notice 797. For more detailed information, the employee needs to see Pub. 596, Earned Income Credit (EIC), or the Instructions for Form 1040.

How Do My Employees Claim the EIC?

Eligible employees claim the EIC on their 2026 tax return. Even an employee who has no tax withheld from wages and owes no tax may claim the EIC and ask for a refund, but they must file a tax return to do so. For example, if an employee has no tax withheld in 2026 and owes no tax but is eligible for a credit of $800, they must file a 2026 tax return to get the $800 refund.