

## Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (412 word count)

*Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help your customers who claim the EITC or ACTC.*

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### The IRS must hold refunds for tax returns claiming EITC or ACTC until at least February 15

Beginning in 2017, if you claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) on your tax return, the IRS [must hold your refund](#) until at least February 15. This new law, approved by Congress, requires the IRS to hold the entire refund — even the portion not associated with EITC or ACTC.

This change helps ensure that you receive the refund you are owed by giving the agency more time to help detect and prevent fraud.

The IRS is accepting and processing these tax returns, so you can file as you normally do. Even though the IRS cannot issue refunds for some early filers until at least February 15. However, the IRS cautions that these refunds likely won't arrive in bank accounts or debit cards until the week of February 27 — if there are no processing issues with the tax return and the taxpayer chose direct deposit

Be careful when planning any financial obligations that are based on any specific refund date when claiming these credits. This includes being cautious of loan and preparer fee agreements where repayment is dependent upon the refund. Be especially aware of any stated repayment dates that are earlier than February 15. You don't want to incur more costs by committing to any re-payment schedule that requires a full payment before the refund will actually become available.

You can check the status of your refund with the [Where's My Refund?](#) tool on IRS.gov or the [IRS2Go Mobile App](#). Where's My Refund? remains the best way to check the status of your refund **after** February 15.

Date: Rev. February 1, 2017

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**NOTE TO EDITOR:** Below are links to help taxpayers find the information they need.

- [Earned Income Tax Credit](#)
- [Where's My Refund?](#)
- [IRS Urges Taxpayers to Check Their Withholding; New Factors Increase Importance of Mid-Year Check Up](#)

### On Twitter? Send these Tweets:

- New law requires #IRS to hold refunds for some early filers next year. <http://go.usa.gov/xWpy3> #EITC
- As #IRS works to combat #IDtheft and #tax refund fraud, some refunds will be delayed in 2017. What to do now: <http://go.usa.gov/xWpy3>
- Try the #IRS Withholding Calculator to get more \$\$ in your paycheck now and avoid possible refund delays in 2017 <http://go.usa.gov/xWpy3>