

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)
CalWORKs/CalFresh/Medi-Cal/General Relief/Cash Assistance Program for
Immigrants/County Medical Services Program Guide Special Notice

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Issue Date:

March 1, 2022

Background:

San Diego County's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign continues to provide services annually. These materials are provided to supplement EITC outreach efforts and are revised to reflect changes each tax year.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Special Notice is to provide revised federal EITC and California EITC (CalEITC) income limits, maximum credit amounts, and their impact on self-sufficiency programs.

Policy:

Age and General EITC Eligibility

California tax filers may qualify for either federal and/or state EITC depending on their income, age, and number of children. Refer to Appendix A for income limits and credit amounts.

Federal EITC Eligibility:

- For the 2021 tax year only, federal EITC is available for tax filers ages 19 to 65 at the end of the tax year
- Must have earned income and adjusted gross income within certain limits, but must be at least \$1
- Must meet certain basic rules (for example, have a Social Security Number (SSN) and not filing as married filing separately etc.)
- Must meet qualifying child rules if any dependent children claimed
- Must live in the United States for more than half the tax year
- Claiming the federal EITC requires the Schedule EIC form available on the EITC webpage

CalEITC Eligibility:

- CalEITC is available to qualified tax filers ages 18 to 65 with or without children and qualified tax filers under 18 with qualifying children
- Undocumented individuals with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), who are otherwise income eligible, may qualify for the CalEITC and no longer must have a child under the age of 6 to qualify
- Must have earned income and adjusted gross income within certain limits, but must be at least \$1
- Must meet certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) basic rules (for example, have a social security number or ITIN, not filing as married filing separately, etc.)
- Must meet qualifying child rules if any dependent children claimed
- Must live in California for more than half the tax year
- Claiming the CalEITC requires the FTB 3514 form available on the CalEITC website

Note: California taxpayers may qualify for state credits even if they do not qualify for federal credits.

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American Rescue Plan Child Tax Credit

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 expanded the federal Child Tax Credit for the 2021 tax year. Families must have at least one child under the age of 17 at the end of the tax year and must file a federal tax return.

| Child's Age | Tax Credit Amount per Child |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <6 years | \$3,600 |
| 6-17 years | \$3,000 |

Eligible families received \$300 per month for each child under the age of six and \$250 per month for each child age 6-17 starting July 2021-December 2021. Families will need to file a 2021 tax return to receive the remainder of the payment.

California Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC)

The YCTC is up to \$1,000 per family. Families must have at least one child under six years old at the end of the tax year and must file a California state tax return.

Procedure:

Free Tax Preparation Services

Free tax preparation services are available for low to moderate income individuals. Customers can call 2-1-1 for more information. Customers can also log on to:

- <https://211sandiego.org/>
- <https://www.myfreetaxes.org/>
MyFreeTaxes.com is operated by United Way Worldwide and offers free state and federal tax preparation, and filing services, for households with earnings less than \$57,500 For the 2021 tax year, tax filers will have the option to choose to file "By Myself," "With Assistance" or "I'm Not Sure". Based on their request, the information will be routed to the appropriate tax preparation model through a virtual assistant software, or in-person drop off
- <https://www.getyourrefund.org/en>
For the 2021 tax year, United Way has partnered with Code for America to provide virtual free tax credit services with IRS certified volunteers for household with earnings less than \$66,000
- <https://www.caleitc4me.org/>
- <https://www.eitc.irs.gov>
- <https://www.irs.gov/>
- https://www.sco.ca.gov/eo_vita.html
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax assistance to households with income of \$57,000 or less. For the 2021 tax year, these services will be predominantly virtual or will require an appointment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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EITC Postcards

The County of San Diego’s Community Action Partnership and local nonprofit agency Dreams for Change will coordinate distribution of EITC postcards and virtual EITC presentations to various Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and Employment Services (ES) sites as requested. Postcards will be distributed (see Appendix B) to ES, Refugee Employment Services (RES), Public Health Clinics, City and County libraries, schools, and Child Care contractors.

In addition, a flyer (Appendix A) containing postcard information with VITA site locations and phone numbers is being mailed to CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal customers.

These EITC publications:

- Strengthen state and county efforts to promote the EITC to our customer population
- Target families and individuals who qualify for EITC
- Educate and assist families on how to access EITC

FRC, ES, RES and Child Care Staff Action

FRC and contracted staff will distribute these postcards to customers at all contacts and encourage them to contact 2-1-1 to receive free assistance to file their taxes and claim EITC and other tax credits available to them. If additional postcards are needed, FRC/ES Managers, or their designees, may contact the Community Action Partnership at (619) 338-2799.

Impacts:

CalWORKs and CalFresh

- Income
EITC payments, whether received as advanced payments or as a single payment, are exempt as income in determining CalWORKs and CalFresh eligibility or benefits level (CPG 44-100.H.2; CFPG 63-224, 63-225)
- Resource
EITC payments and refund payments are exempt resources for 12 months, starting with the month that the payment is received (CPG 42-200.I.6; CFPG 63-203, 63-204)

Medi-Cal

- Income
EITC payments received as tax refunds or advanced payments are exempt from consideration as income (MPG 10.02.01 and Desk Aid 56 – MAGI Income and Deduction Types)
For Aged, Blind & Disabled (ABD)-linked cases the EITC is treated as earned income (MPG 10.02.01)
- Resource
Actual EITC payments are exempt property in the month following the month of receipt (MPG 09.06.01M)

General Relief (GR)

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- Income
General Relief considers EITC payments as unearned income in the month received (GRPG 90-400.5F). If a customer received General Relief during 2021, and the customer receives EITC, the case must be reviewed for potential unreported unearned income
- Resource
Any portion of the refund retained by the customer in the month following receipt is considered personal property (GRPG 90-400.5F)

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)

- Income
CAPI exempts EITC from consideration as income in the month received (CAPI PG 99-103.2B)
- Resource
CAPI exempts EITC as a resource for 12 months following the month of receipt (CAPI PG 99-104.4B)

County Medical Services (CMS)

- Income
CMS counts EITC as earned income in the month received (CMSPG 06.01.02A)
- Resource
Any portion of the refund retained by the beneficiary in the month following receipt is considered exempt personal property (CMSPG 06.04.03H)

Automation:

- On the **Collect Unearned Income Detail** window **Type** field, select **Earned Income Tax Credit: actual money received as earnings/refund** from the drop-down menu. CalWIN will count this entry as countable income for the General Relief program and will exempt as income for the CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CAPI, and Refugee Cash Assistance.

References:

All County Information Notice No. I-99-21

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by February 28, 2023.

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services



FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE! IDECLARE SUS IMPUESTOS DE FORMA GRATUITA!



Visit myfreetaxes.org to learn more!

iVisite myfreetaxes.org para obtener más información!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are federal credits that can put money back in your pocket. The Californial EITC (CalEITC) and Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) are state credits that give you even more money back! You must file your taxes to claim these credits.

El Crédito Fiscal por Ingreso del Trabajo (EITC) y el Crédito Fiscal por Hijo (CTC) son créditos federales que pueden devolverle dinero a su bolsillo. El EITC de California (CalEITC) y el Crédito Fiscal para Niños Pequeños (YCTC) son créditos estatales que le devuelven aún más dinero. Debe presentar su declaración de impuestos para reclamar estos créditos.

Who is Eligible?

Individuals and families earning up to the following income limits
 Undocumented ITIN filers may also be eligible

¿Quién es Elegible?

Las personas y familias que ganan hasta los siguientes límites de ingresos
 Declarantes de el número de identificación individual del contribuyente (ITIN, por sus siglas en inglés) indocumentados también pueden ser elegibles

2021 CalEITC Income Limits

Límites de Ingresos - 2021 CalEITC

| Number of Qualifying children/ Número de niños que califican | State EITC Income Limits/ Límites de ingresos para el EITC estatal | State EITC Maximum Credits/Créditos máximos para el EITC estatal |
|---|---|--|
| 0 | \$30,000 | \$255 |
| 1 | \$30,000 | \$1,698 |
| 2 | \$30,000 | \$2,809 |
| >3 | \$30,000 | \$3,160 |

2021 Federal EITC Income Limits

Límites de Ingresos Federales del EITC

| Number of qualifying children/ Número de niños que califican | Single, Head of Household, Widowed/Soltero, jefe de familia o viudo | Married Filing Jointly/ Casado y declara en conjunto | Federal EITC Maximum Credits/ Creditos máximos para EITC federal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | \$21,430 | \$27,380 | \$1,502 |
| 1 | \$42,158 | \$48,108 | \$3,618 |
| 2 | \$47,915 | \$53,865 | \$5,980 |
| >3 | \$51,464 | \$57,414 | \$6,728 |

What You'll Need

- Photo ID
- Social Security Card or ITIN for yourself and any dependents
- Income documents including any W2s or 1099s
- Bank account information for direct deposit
- School tuition or student loan interest statements
- Dates of health coverage for yourself and any dependents

Qué Necesitará

- Identificación con foto
- Tarjeta de Seguro Social o ITIN para usted y sus dependientes
- Documentos de ingreso, incluyendo formularios W2 o 1099
- Información de la cuenta bancaria para el depósito directo
- Declaraciones de la matrícula escolar o de los intereses de los préstamos estudiantiles
- Fechas de la cobertura de salud para usted y sus dependientes

How to File

GET FREE TAX ASSISTANCE
Call 2-1-1 or go to myfreetaxes.org to see if you qualify and make an appointment. VITA services are available in multiple languages. In-person and online assistance is available. COVID protocols including drop-off and drive-up services are available at select locations.
 FILE ONLINE FOR FREE
 If you don't need tax preparation assistance, you can still file online for free if you qualify by going to myfreetaxes.org.

Cómo Hacer la Declaración

OBTENGA ASISTENCIA FISCAL GRATUITA
Llame al 2-1-1 o vaya a myfreetaxes.org para ver si califica y para hacer una cita. Los servicios de ayuda gratuita con los impuestos (VITA, por sus siglas en inglés) están disponibles en persona y en línea. Los protocolos de COVID, incluyendo puntos de entrega, están disponibles en lugares determinados.

DECLARARE EN LINEA GRATUITAMENTE
 Si no necesita ayuda para preparar sus impuestos, puede declararlos, gratuitamente, si califica, por Internet en Myfreetaxes.org.



FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE!



You could get money back on your taxes through federal and state tax credits!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are federal credits that can put money back in your pocket. The California EITC (CalEITC) and Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) are state credits that give you even more money back! You must file your taxes to claim these credits.

Call 2-1-1 or visit myfreetaxes.org to learn more!

Who Is Eligible?

- Individuals/families earning up to \$57,500 per year can get free in-person or online tax assistance
- Individuals and families with incomes up to \$30,000 may be eligible for the CalEITC and YCTC
- Individuals and families with incomes up to \$57,500 may be eligible for the federal EITC and CTC
- Undocumented ITIN filers

What You'll Need

- Photo ID
- Social Security Card or ITIN for yourself and any dependents
- Income documents including any W2s or 1099s
- Bank account information for direct deposit
- School tuition or student loan interest statements
- Dates of health coverage for yourself and any dependents

How To File

- **GET FREE TAX ASSISTANCE**
Call 2-1-1 or go to myfreetaxes.org to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. VITA services are available in multiple languages. In-person and online assistance is available. COVID protocols including drop-off and drive-up services are available at select locations.
- **FILE ONLINE FOR FREE**
If you don't need tax preparation assistance, you can still file online for free if you qualify by going to myfreetaxes.org.

This program is brought to you by the San Diego EITC Coalition and the following partners:



DECLARE SUS IMPUESTOS DE FORMA GRATUITA



Podría recuperar dinero de sus impuestos a través de créditos fiscales federales y estatales.

El Crédito Fiscal por Ingreso del Trabajo (EITC) y el Crédito Fiscal por Hijo (CTC) son créditos federales que pueden devolverle dinero a su bolsillo. El EITC de California (CalEITC) y el Crédito Fiscal para Niños Pequeños (YCTC) son créditos estatales que le devuelven aún más dinero. Debe presentar su declaración de impuestos para reclamar estos créditos.

Llame al 2-1-1 o visite myfreetaxes.org para obtener más información.

¿Quién es elegible?

- Las personas y familias que ganan hasta \$57,500 al año pueden obtener asistencia fiscal gratuita en persona o por Internet
- Las personas y familias con ingresos de hasta \$30,000 pueden ser elegibles para el CalEITC y el YCTC
- Las personas y las familias con ingresos de hasta \$ 57,500 pueden ser elegibles para el EITC federal y CTC
- Declarantes de ITIN indocumentados

Qué necesitará

- Foto de identificación
- Tarjeta de la Seguridad Social o ITIN para usted y sus dependientes
- Documentos de ingreso, incluyendo cualquier W2 o 1099
- Información de la cuenta bancaria para el depósito directo
- Declaraciones de la matrícula escolar o de los intereses de los préstamos estudiantiles
- Fechas de la cobertura sanitaria para usted y sus dependientes

Cómo hacer la declaración

- **OBTENGA ASISTENCIA FISCAL GRATUITA**
Llame al 2-1-1 o vaya a myfreetaxes.org para ver si califica y para hacer una cita. Los servicios de VITA están disponibles en varios idiomas. Están disponibles asistencia personal y en línea. Los protocolos de COVID, incluyendo los servicios de entrega y recogida, están disponibles en determinados lugares.
- **PRESENTAR EN LÍNEA GRATUITAMENTE**
Si no necesita ayuda para preparar sus impuestos, puede presentarlos gratuitamente por Internet en myfreetaxes.org.

Este programa es presentado por la Coalición EITC de San Diego y los siguientes socios

