



TOP QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

1. Am I eligible for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)?

You may be eligible and don't even know it. If you have no dependents and are between the ages of 25 and 65, you must make less than \$6,580 a year to be eligible. If you do have two or more dependents, you can make up to \$13,870 and still qualify.

2. Will I automatically qualify for the federal EITC if I am eligible for the CalEITC?

Yes! If you have no dependents and are between the ages of 25 and 65, you must make less than \$14,820 a year to be eligible for the federal EITC. If you do have three or more dependents, you can make up to \$53,267 and still qualify for the federal EITC.

3. How much could I get back?

For the CalEITC, the average credit a family could get is \$900 and the most a family could get is \$2,653. For the federal EITC, the most a family could get is \$6,242.

4. When can I claim them?

The most important thing you need to do is file your tax returns! Claiming tax credits is a part of filing your taxes. Don't miss the deadline to file your taxes on April 18, 2016.

5. I work two jobs as a 1099 employee—does that count?

1099 income counts for the federal EITC, but not the CalEITC. Only W-2 income is eligible for the CalEITC.

For the latest information and resources on the EITC, visit CalEITC4Me.org.

6. If I have both 1099 and W-2 income, am I still eligible?

For the federal EITC, yes. For CalEITC, only your W-2 income will be used to figure out your eligibility.

7. Will my benefits (such as CalWorks, CalFresh, or disability) count as income? Will claiming EITC count as reportable income when I apply or renew benefits?

Nope!

8. If I'm not required to file my taxes because I am under the income threshold, do I need to file now to get the EITC?

The only way to get the federal and/or state EITC is to file your taxes. So yes, you need to file your tax returns to get the EITC.

9. If I am DACA protected, am I eligible for the EITC?

If you participate in DACA and applied for a Social Security Number that allows you to work, you can use that number when claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit.

10. If I am a student and my parents claim me, am I eligible for the EITC?

No.

11. I am a senior and meet the income threshold, do I qualify for the EITC?

Based on your age and if you have qualifying children (dependents). If you are 65 or younger by the end of 2015, do not have any dependents and met the income requirements, you are eligible. If you have dependents and meet the income requirements, your age is not a factor in eligibility. See questions one and two for eligibility facts.

12. Will I still qualify for this credit if I have any prior convictions on my record?

Yes!

For the latest information and resources on the EITC, visit CalEITC4Me.org.

13. Should I file for the credit even if I have not filed my tax returns for many years and likely owe back taxes?

If you want to claim your EITC, you must file your tax returns. The federal EITC lowers the amount of federal taxes you may owe so by claiming the federal EITC, if you owe federal taxes, the amount could be less than you think- thanks to EITC.

14. I applied to get the federal credit last year and was not eligible. How will I know if I am eligible now?

Eligibility requirements change each year so it's worth checking your eligibility before you file your tax returns each year.

15. What documents do I need to file?

Below are the documents you need to when you file your tax returns:

- Proof of income including W2s (1099 can only be used for the Federal EITC)
- Documentation of deductible expenses
- Form of Government Identification
- Social Security Card for each family member
- Account and routing numbers for checking or savings accounts for direct deposit and a faster refund
- Health Insurance Marketplace Statement (1095-A, B, and/or C)
- Copy of 2014 tax return, if available

16. How can I protect myself from fraud or paying more than I should when filing my taxes?

To protect yourself from fraud or paying more than you should to file your taxes, you should get your taxes done at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) location for free, open in neighborhoods throughout the state starting February 1st.

17. How do I find out if I'm eligible for free tax preparation and help?

If you qualify for the EITC, you are eligible to file for free, no-cost in-person tax help through the VITA program. Even if you aren't eligible for the EITC, VITA is available for people with incomes up to \$54,000.