

GET THE EITC YOU DESERVE

EITC is a financial boost for working people and the local communities. Nationwide, over 26 million people received over \$65.6 billion in EITC for the 2015 tax year. Due to changes in financial, marital or parental status, the EITC eligible population has a turnover rate of about one-third each year therefore millions of taxpayers will qualify for the first time this year.

The people you assist may be eligible to get more money back from the IRS if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Families with three children earning less than **\$53,505** from wages, self-employment, or farming last year may qualify. Even workers without children may qualify for the EITC, but anyone who qualifies ***must file and claim the credit*** to get it! Review the limitations at [2016 EITC Limits](#).

EITC Awareness Day was [January 27, 2017](#)

To maximize awareness, the IRS is encouraging every agency and organization to conduct EITC awareness activities on January 27. The goal is to raise EITC awareness to ensure every qualified worker claims and receives their EITC. If you can't host an activity, please consider joining with other interested local organizations in promoting the credits or providing reference materials in your newsletters and websites.

I will be happy to talk with you further about various refundable credits and provide educational materials. The IRS will assist you with ready-to-use resources including printed products, social media messages and links to promote the credits. The Brookings Institute has an [EITC interactive database](#) on its site; you can download ZIP code-level tax return information for states, metro areas, counties, and cities for tax years 2011 through 2013. Additional EITC helpful links:

- [EITC Central](#) for the EITC Partner Toolkit (Government Agencies and Offices) that provides statistics, posters, sample news releases, a sample "tweet", letter to the editor, newsletter article, web article, and "widgets"
- [General](#) EITC information and links
- [Use the EITC Assistant](#) to promote the use of IRS's online EITC Assistant to determine eligibility. The 2016 EITC Assistant will be available in late January.

[Free tax preparation](#) assistance is available throughout the tax season. For tax help you can visit this site found on [IRS.gov](#) or call local community information numbers (211 or 311). Some taxpayers may choose to electronically file at the IRS.gov site **'free file'**.

Refund Delay for returns claiming EITC and ACTC - Beginning in 2017, if a taxpayer claims the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) on their tax return, the IRS must hold their entire refund until February 15. Normal processing means individual taxpayers could expect their refund the week of February 27, 2017.

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) may need to be renewed. Don't delay your refund! All ITINs not used on a federal tax return at least once in the last three years will no longer be valid for use on a tax return as of Jan. 1, 2017. Additionally, all ITINs issued before 2013 will begin expiring this year, starting with those with middle digits of 78 and 79 (Example: (9XX-78-XXXX)). All expired ITINs must be renewed before being used on a U.S. tax return. Additional helpful links:

- [Take Steps Now for Tax Filing Season](#) to review various topics to prepare your information for tax return preparation
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) provides answers to frequently asked questions about ITIN Expiration