

Creating Pathways Out of Poverty >>>



Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & How It Can Help Your Family

Presented By: The Greater Los Angeles EITC Campaign Partnership
December 4, 2008

What is EITC?

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) was created by Congress in 1975 to ease the burden of taxes on families and provide them an incentive to work
- EITC is a refundable tax credit for low-to-moderate income workers
- IRS reports that each year there are about 15% to 20% of eligible households throughout the country that **do not** claim the credit

Who is eligible?

To claim EITC on your 2008 tax return

- You must have earned income from employment or self-employment.

- Total Income must be less than:
 - \$12,880 if you have no qualifying child
(\$15,880 if married filing jointly)

 - \$33,995 if you have one qualifying child
(\$36,995 if married filing jointly)

 - \$38,646 if you have two or more qualifying children
(\$41,646 if married filing jointly)

Who is eligible?

To claim EITC on your 2008 tax return

- Filing status cannot be married filing separately.
- If you do not have a qualifying child, you must be at least age 25 but under 65 at the end of the 2008.

Who is eligible?

To claim EITC on your 2008 tax return

- You, your spouse (if filing jointly) and any qualifying child must all have valid Social Security Numbers (SSN) issued by the Social Security Administration.
- If your SSN card notes NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT, it is also not valid for EITC purposes.
- If you, your spouse or any qualifying child has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) you cannot claim EITC.

EITC Amounts for 2008

Ranges from:

- **\$1 to \$438**
(if you have no qualifying child)
- **\$4 to \$2,917**
(if you have 1 qualifying child)
- **\$5 to \$4,824**
(if you have 2 or more qualifying children)

**You can receive retroactive EITC payments if you were eligible and did not claim it in any of the past 3 years by filing amended returns*

To Claim the EITC

- You must file a federal tax return, even if you:
 - Do not owe any tax
 - Do not have a filing requirement
(did not make enough money to be required to file a federal tax return)

Free Tax Assistance

Available

If you and your family had a combined income of \$45,000 or less for 2008:

- Qualify to receive free tax assistance at over 130 locations throughout LA County
- All locations can e-file, so you can get your refund in as little as 7-10 days when you also choose to use direct deposit.

I-CAN E-file is a free online self-preparation tax program available to all income levels

To Receive Free Tax Assistance

Starting in January, to find your nearest location for free tax assistance:

- Dial 2-1-1

or

- Visit www.eitc-la.com

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Requirements