

**Financial Strategies to Get You Through the Pandemic  
Fact Sheet Number 4**

**Earned Income Tax Credit**

The [Earned Income Tax Credit \(Español\)](#) is a refundable credit is for working adults with limited incomes who:

- Have earned income.
- Have little or no investment income.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Were a US citizen or resident alien for the entire year.
- File taxes as Single, Married Filing Jointly, Head of Household, or Qualifying Widow/Widower.
  - You cannot get the credit if you file as Married Filing Jointly.

Whether you qualify for the Earned Income Credit – and how much you receive – is based on your income. Learn more about who qualifies [here \(Español\)](#) The income limits for 2020 are shown in the following table. You can also check the [income limits for other years \(Español\)](#) to see if you qualified for 2019 or 2018. If so, you could still file to claim it.

<b>Earned Income Tax Credit for 2020</b>			
<b>Children or relatives claimed</b>	<b>Income limit for single, head of household or widowed</b>	<b>Income limit for married filing jointly</b>	<b>Income limit for single, head of household or widowed</b>
<b>None</b>	\$15,820	\$21,710	\$538
<b>1</b>	\$41,756	\$47,646	\$3584
<b>2</b>	\$47,440	\$53,330	\$5920
<b>3 or more</b>	\$50,594	\$56,844	\$6660

**Income means Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from line 10-C on the 1040 form.**

## **New Rules**

For 2020 and 2021: There is a temporary rule that may help you qualify for a larger credit if your income has changed. If your 2019 income was higher than 2020 or 2021, you can use 2019 income to receive a larger credit.

For 2021 only, the age restrictions for childless people to receive the credit have been changed. The youngest age for a childless person to receive the credit is lowered from 25 to 19. But childless, full-time students between 19 and 24 are still not eligible. There is no upper age limit for the credit this year. And, childless persons can receive up to \$1502, so their credit may be substantially larger than in 2020.

There is a permanent change starting in 2021, regarding the income limitations. The amount of investment income that is allowed is increased from \$3650 to \$10,000.

## **Not sure if you qualify?**

Use the EITC Assistant to be sure. Go to <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/use-the-eitc-assistant> ([Español](#)).