



Aging Services Providers: Educate Staff on the Earned Income Tax Credit and Put More Money in Their Pockets!

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Changes Congress made last year to the Earned Income Tax Credit make it more valuable than ever to workers with relatively low earnings. Aging services staff who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit should not leave these checks unclaimed. Aging services providers can help educate staff about this potentially valuable tax benefit. If your eligible staff aren't claiming it, they are leaving money on the table.

Quick facts about the Earned Income Tax Credit:

- Many workers aged 19+ with lower earnings, with and without children, will qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The tax credit phases out as earnings increase.
- The lower one's earnings and the more children one has, the greater the Earned Income Tax Credit will be.
- For example, the estimated Earned Income Tax Credit for a single person with no children and earnings of \$17,000 is \$674; for a single person with two children and earnings of \$30,000 it is \$3,768; and for a married couple with one child and earnings totaling \$40,000 it is \$1292.
- These tax credits do not get counted as income for purposes of eligibility for federal benefits.
- Unemployment benefits, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and pension payments do not count as earnings, but net earnings from self-employment do.
- The EITC is fully refundable, meaning someone can qualify for it even if they don't owe federal income taxes.
- People must submit a federal tax return for the 2021 tax year to get the Earned Income Tax Credit they are eligible for, even if they otherwise are not required to file.

Aging services providers can help make sure staff receive these tax benefits by:

- Educating staff on the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Connecting staff to free tax preparation organizations to help them file their taxes.

Resources on the Earned Income Tax Credit:

Earned Income Tax Credit calculator:

<https://www.taxoutreach.org/help/>

Earned Income Tax Credit – The Basics (pieces of this site are in Spanish):

<https://www.taxoutreach.org/tax-credits/earned-income-tax-credit/>

Earned Income Tax Credit - The Details from the IRS (in multiple languages):

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>

YouTube video explainer (<2 minutes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAXCB7YIngY>

Trusted, Free Tax Filing Help:

- IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site zip code locator:
<https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a free alternative to paid tax preparation. The IRS sponsors the VITA program which community-based organizations coordinate locally. VITA volunteers are trained according to IRS guidelines to fill out basic tax forms, including the ones needed to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. Volunteers must pass an annual exam to prepare tax returns. All tax returns undergo a quality review before VITA sites submit them to the IRS.
- [GetYourRefund.org](https://www.getyourrefund.org/) is an online free tax filing service by Code for America, which partners with IRS-certified VITA sites to help people file their taxes online. This services is available in English and Spanish.
- Providers might also host their own tax filing day and arrange for tax professionals to be on-site to help staff file their taxes.

EITC flyer – two options:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c4G2lpfikNUa157Xznno_xSl28Qaqy7X/view

Full Earned Income Tax Credit (& Child Tax Credit) Outreach Kit:

<https://www.taxoutreach.org/wp-content/uploads/outreach-kit.pdf>

Sample social media posts:

- Facebook Post: ICYMI: More people than ever before will qualify for significant new tax benefits this year. If you worked in 2021, the expanded federal Earned Income Tax Credit could give you money back at tax time or lower the federal taxes you owe. Visit [TaxOutreach.org](https://www.taxoutreach.org/) to find out more about how to get your money this year.
- Twitter Post: ICYMI: More people than ever will qualify for tax benefits this year. If you worked in 2021, the expanded federal EITC could give you money back at tax time or lower the federal taxes you owe. Visit [TaxOutreach.org](https://www.taxoutreach.org/) to find out more. #TaxSeason
- Instagram Post: ICYMI: More people than ever before will qualify for significant new tax benefits this year. If you worked in 2021, the expanded federal Earned Income Tax Credit could give you money back at tax time or lower the federal taxes you owe. Visit [TaxOutreach.org](https://www.taxoutreach.org/) to find out more about how to get your money this year.