

Claim Earned Income Tax Credit



The Internal Revenue Service published a notice in January to make taxpayers with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit and how they can claim it. Many people with disabilities miss getting this credit because they do not file a tax return. If you qualify and correctly claim it, you could get a refund of up to \$6,318.00.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal income tax credit for workers that earned \$53,930 or less last year and meet other eligibility requirements. Individuals who claim the credit could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or even get a tax refund. Because a number of individuals fall below the income threshold, they do not file a return, but the IRS urges them to file as this is the only way to receive this credit.

To be eligible, you must have earned income from a job or self-employment, or if you are retired on disability, you can count any taxable benefits you receive under an employer's disability retirement plan. According to the IRS, these benefits remain earned income until the disability retiree reaches minimum retirement age. Social Security benefits and Social Security Disability Income do not count as earned income.

Taxpayers may claim a child with a disability or a relative with a disability of any age if the person meets all other EITC requirements. Filing electronically is the best way to get the EITC and you can do this through a qualified tax professional, by using free community tax help sites or through IRS Free File.