



File Taxes Now to Get Monthly Cash Payments to Support Your Children

Even if you don't normally file!

What's the Expanded Child Tax Credit?

To help people get through the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Rescue Plan massively expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC). It will give most families \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child, even if the families have little or no income.

- **In 2021, families can get:**
 - \$3,600 (\$300 a month) per child for children ages 0 to 5.
 - \$3,000 (\$250 a month) per child for children ages 6 to 17.
- **IRS should start paying these benefits monthly in July 2021.** Most families will get \$250 to \$300 a month per child from July through December 2021. Families will get the remaining \$1,500 to 1,800 per child when they file their 2021 taxes in Spring 2022.
- **The Child Tax Credit will not affect your Medicaid, SNAP/Food Stamps, TANF Cash Assistance, SSI or other public benefits.**

Is My Child Eligible?

- **To be eligible, children must:**
 - Have a Social Security Number.
 - Live with you for at least half of the year.
 - Be under age 18 as of December 31, 2021.
- Children are eligible if they are your children, adopted children, stepchildren, half-siblings, foster children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or certain other relatives.
- The adult filing taxes must have a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.
- **You do not need to have any earnings to get this credit.** Families will qualify for a full credit if their income is below \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,000 for people filing as head of household, or \$150,000 for people who are married and filing jointly.

How Do I Get It?

- **File taxes! The deadline is May 17, 2021**
- File Now:
 - If you did not file taxes in 2019 or 2020
 - Even if you do not usually file
 - Even if you do not have earnings.
- You can find **free tax assistance** through the IRS at [tinyurl.com/IRStaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-information-from-the-irs/irs-online-services)
- Want to read more? Check out this FAQ about the CTC at www.childrensdefense.org/child-tax-credit-resources/.