

# 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.
- **Find free tax help near you at <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>**
- **File your taxes for free online at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>**

## Want to Read More?

Check out this FAQ about the CTC at [www.childrensdefense.org/child-tax-credit-resources/](http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-tax-credit-resources/).