



**Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development**  
**Secretariat of Catholic Education**

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TO: Superintendents and Diocesan Contacts

FROM: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development  
Secretariat of Catholic Education

RE: 2014 Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach Campaign

DATE: March 2014

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The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church notes:

*250. In order to protect [the] relationship between family and work, an element that must be appreciated and safeguarded is that of a family wage, a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently. Such a wage must also allow for savings that will permit the acquisition of property as a guarantee of freedom. The right to property is closely connected with the existence of families, which protect themselves from need thanks also to savings and to the building up of family property. There can be several different ways to make a family wage a concrete reality. Various forms of important social provisions help to bring it about, for example, family subsidies and other contributions for dependent family members, and also remuneration for the domestic work done in the home by one of the parents.*

Millions of working poor families are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their daily needs and achieve financial security. One of the ways our society provides the “family subsidies” to which the *Compendium* refers is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Earlier this year, the Census Bureau reported that the EITC, combined with the Child Tax Credit (CTC), lifts over four million children out of poverty, making them the most potent tool the government has for fighting child poverty.

These powerful antipoverty initiatives deliver critical income support for millions of workers in low-wage jobs. Claiming these tax credits put families on the path to securing better housing, pursuing quality education, obtaining dependable transportation, covering out-of-pocket health care costs, or paying for quality childcare. It is important that we continue this outreach to help ensure that low and moderate-income working families do not miss out on these benefits.

Enclosed is information regarding the 2014 Tax Credit Outreach Kit. More information can be found at [www.eitcoutreach.org](http://www.eitcoutreach.org).

Thank you for your help and for all that you do to serve poor and vulnerable people and families. Any questions about the program can be directed to Tom Mulloy, domestic policy advisor, at [tmulloy@usccb.org](mailto:tmulloy@usccb.org).





**The EITC is for working people who earn less than \$59,187. This year, the amount of the credit you could receive is up to \$6,935 if you claim qualifying children or up to \$560 if you don't claim qualifying children. The amount of the credit depends on:**

- whether you are single or married
- if you have no children or the number of qualifying children you have
- the amount you earned

**Just imagine what you could do with the EITC.**



Life's a little easier with



**See if you qualify.**  
[www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc)

## Are you eligible to claim the EITC for 2022?

### Here are the rules to claim the credit . . .

- Generally must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Must work and have earned income
- Must have a valid Social Security number issued on or before the due date of the return (including extensions)
- May not have more than \$10,300 of investment income (such as interest)
- Must have a qualifying child and meet other requirements if you are married but not filing a joint return.
- May not be a qualifying child of another person
- May not file Form 2555 (related to foreign earned income)

You have to file a federal income tax return to get the EITC even if you owe no tax or are not required to file. The EITC provides a boost to help pay your bills or save for a rainy day.

## Did you meet the rules?

### If so, your earned income must be less than . . .

- \$16,480 (\$22,610 if married filing a joint return) with no qualifying children who have valid SSNs
- \$43,492 (\$49,622 if married filing a joint return) with one qualifying child who has a valid SSN
- \$49,399 (\$55,529 if married filing a joint return) with two qualifying children who have valid SSNs
- \$53,057 (\$59,187 if married filing a joint return) with three or more qualifying children who have valid SSNs

Special rules may apply for members of the U.S. Armed Forces in combat zones, members of the clergy, and those with disability retirement income.

## Do you have a qualifying child who lives with you?

### To be a qualifying child for the credit . . .

- The child must meet the relationship, age, residency, and joint return tests described at [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or in Publication 596, Earned Income Credit.

## Did you double check your facts?

### Here are common errors to avoid . . .

- Claiming a child as a qualifying child who does not meet the relationship, age or residency tests
- Underreporting or overreporting income or expenses
- Social Security number and last name mismatches

If you claim the EITC, the IRS can't release your refund until mid-February. Errors on the tax return can cause a delay in processing your claim for the tax credits.

## Do you want help with the EITC?

### Go online or call us toll free . . .

- Go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) for free information and to check out the interactive EITC Assistant to see if you qualify for the credit and estimate the amount of your EITC.
- Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site for free tax help and preparation. Go to [www.irs.gov/VITA](http://www.irs.gov/VITA) or call 1-800-906-9887 to find a site.
- Use Free File at [www.irs.gov/FreeFile](http://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) for free online filing through commercially available tax preparation software.
- Go to [www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro](http://www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro) to help locate a qualified tax return preparer.
- Call 1-800-829-4059 if you have access to TTY/TDD equipment for the hearing impaired.