

# Families With Children



## Tax Happens LLC

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You can schedule an appointment via our website or by calling the office.



## Child Tax Credit

**Maximum credit:** \$2,000 per qualifying child.

### Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Phaseout

The credit is reduced by \$50 for each \$1,000 of modified AGI above:

- \$400,000 Married Filing Jointly.
- \$200,000 Single, Head of Household, Qualifying Widow(er), or Married Filing Separately.

The regular child tax credit is nonrefundable, but if any part of the credit is disallowed because tax is reduced to zero, you may qualify for the Additional Child Tax Credit, which is refundable.

- \$3,000 (\$6,000 for two or more qualifying persons).
- Qualified expenses incurred and paid during the year.
- Include expenses for care in 2020 that were paid before 2020. Reduce expenses by dependent care benefits excluded from income.
- Your earned income.
- Your spouse's earned income.

### Exclusion

Instead of taking the credit, you may be eligible to exclude from income an amount up to \$5,000 for dependent care benefits received under an employer plan.

## Credit for Other Dependents

**Maximum credit:** \$500 per qualifying dependent.

A nonrefundable credit of up to \$500 is allowed for dependents other than a qualifying child for the Child Tax Credit.

## Additional Child Tax Credit

Up to \$1,400 of the Child Tax Credit is refundable. You may be able to claim the additional credit if a portion of the regular Child Tax Credit was disallowed because tax was reduced to zero before the entire credit was used. The portion of the Child Tax Credit phased out because of AGI, cannot be used to claim the additional credit.

## Child and Dependent Care Credit

### Credit

The credit is 20%–35% of the smallest of:

Child and Dependent Care Expenses	
Qualified	Not Qualified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care outside your home for a qualifying person who regularly spends at least eight hours each day in your home.</li> <li>• Amounts paid for items other than care (food and schooling) if they are incidental to the care and cannot be separated from the total cost.</li> <li>• Before and after school care.</li> <li>• Household services, including cooks, maids, babysitters, or cleaners, if services were partly for the care of a qualifying person.</li> <li>• Employment taxes, meals, and extra lodging expenses for household employees.</li> <li>• Day camps and similar programs even if they specialize in a particular activity.</li> <li>• Transportation provided by a childcare provider to or from a place that care is provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schooling for a child in kindergarten or above. <i>Clarification:</i> The IRS has confirmed that kindergarten costs are educational and do not qualify for the credit. This includes costs paid for a full day of kindergarten at a private school in a district where public schools have half-day classes. Costs of pre-school do qualify even if the programs have some educational content.</li> <li>• Cost of an overnight camp.</li> <li>• Expenses reimbursed by a state social service agency not included in income.</li> <li>• Child support payments.</li> <li>• Transportation of the care provider and transportation of a qualifying person not provided by a childcare provider.</li> </ul>



## Families With Children

### Earned Income Credit (EIC)

The EIC is a refundable credit for low-income earners. If you have investment income of more than \$3,650 you do not qualify.

#### Requirements for Everyone

The following requirements must be met whether or not you have qualifying children.

- **Valid Social Security Numbers.** You and your spouse (if filing jointly) must have valid Social Security Numbers. Qualifying children must also have valid Social Security Numbers except a child who was born and died during the year. Adoption and individual taxpayer identification numbers (ATINs and ITINs) do not qualify. A Social Security Number on a card that reads “Not Valid for Employment” does not qualify. A Social Security Number on a card that reads “Valid for work only with DHS (or INS) authorization” qualifies.
- **You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire year.** A nonresident alien can claim the credit if married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien, and the nonresident alien chooses to be treated as a resident for the entire tax year by filing a joint return.
- **Filing status may not be Married Filing Separately.**
- **You may not be a qualifying child of another taxpayer.**
- **You may not file a tax form relating to foreign earned income.**
- **Your investment income must be \$3,650 or less.**

#### Taxpayers Without Qualifying Children

If you meet all the requirements and you do not have a qualifying child for the year, you can claim EIC if the following additional requirements are met.

- **You must be at least 25, but under age 65, at the end of the tax year.** If Married Filing Jointly, either you or your spouse can meet the age test.
- **You cannot be the dependent of another person.**
- **Your principal place of abode is in the United States for more than half the year.** Residence in U.S. possessions, such as Guam and Puerto Rico, does not qualify.

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### Adoption Credit

#### Credit and Exclusion Amount

You can claim a credit of up to \$14,300 (2020) and also exclude up to \$14,300 of employer-provided benefits from income for expenses of adopting an eligible child. The same qualifying expenses cannot be used for both. Limits apply to the total spent over all years for each effort to adopt an eligible child. An attempt that leads to adoption and any unsuccessful attempt to adopt a different child is treated as one effort. Unmarried persons who adopt a child can divide each limit in any way they agree.

Qualified expenses include:	Nonqualified expenses include expenses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption fees.</li> <li>• Attorney fees.</li> <li>• Court costs.</li> <li>• Travel expenses, meals and lodging, while away from home.</li> <li>• Re-adoption in state court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To adopt a spouse's child.</li> <li>• For surrogate parenting.</li> <li>• Paid or reimbursed by employer, governmental agency or other.</li> <li>• Allowed as a credit or deduction under another tax provision.</li> <li>• Paid before 1997.</li> </ul>

#### Eligible Child

A child under age 18 or a person who is physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

### Education Credits

**American Opportunity Credit.** Credit of up to \$2,500 per student for the first four years. 40% of the credit may be refundable.

**Lifetime Learning Credit.** Credit of 20% of the first \$10,000 of qualified education expenses (maximum credit is \$2,000). No limit on the number of years the credit may be claimed.

### Contact Us

There are many events that occur during the year that can affect your tax situation. Preparation of your tax return involves summarizing transactions and events that occurred during the prior year. In most situations, treatment is firmly established at the time the transaction occurs. However, negative tax effects can be avoided by proper planning. Please contact us in advance if you have questions about the tax effects of a transaction or event, including the following:

- Pension or IRA distributions.
- Significant change in income or deductions.
- Job change.
- Marriage.
- Attainment of age 59½ or 72.
- Sale or purchase of a business.
- Sale or purchase of a residence or other real estate.
- Retirement.
- Notice from IRS or other revenue department.
- Divorce or separation.
- Self-employment.
- Charitable contributions of property in excess of \$5,000.