

# Will you qualify for the **EITC** this year?



**Don't guess. Know.**

If you think you might be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, look over the requirements and keep them handy. Or visit your tax preparer to see if you can claim the EITC.

# 2004 Earned Income Tax Credit Requirements

To claim the EITC, taxpayers must meet the following rules

- Must have earned income
- Must have a valid Social Security number
- Investment income is limited to \$2,650
- Filing status can't be "married filing separately"
- Generally must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Cannot be a qualifying child of another person
- Cannot file Form 2555 or 2555-EZ (related to foreign earned income)

**You need to have worked and have earned income less than**

- \$11,490 (\$12,490 if married filing jointly) if there is no qualifying child
- \$30,338 (\$31,338 if married filing jointly) if there is one qualifying child
- \$34,458 (\$35,458 if married filing jointly) if there is more than one qualifying child

## **Qualifying child criteria**

The child must meet the relationship, age and residency tests.

## **Common errors to avoid**

- Taxpayers claim a child who is not a qualifying child
- Married taxpayers who should file as married filing separately instead file as single or head of household
- Income-reporting errors
- Taxpayers or qualifying children with incorrect Social Security numbers

**For more information on the EITC, visit [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or call 1-800-TAX-1040.**