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Financial Resources and Volunt...

Expanded Child Tax Credit FAQs

<https://www.childtaxcredit.com/#faq>

This information was sourced from **The White House** and **IRS** websites and last updated on **June 16, 2021**.

What is the child tax credit?



The child tax credit is an existing program that more families are eligible for in 2021. The credit was expanded significantly as part of the American Rescue Plan.

The key changes of the expanded child tax credit are:

- 17-year-olds are now eligible.
- The total credit has been increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child 6-17 years old and \$3,600 per child 5 and under.
- There is no work requirement, so you don't have to be employed or earning income to receive the maximum credit.
- Half of the total credit will come as monthly cash payments, starting in July.

For details on the American Rescue Plan and the child tax credit, visit The White House's website.

Am I eligible for the child tax credit?



If you have children 17 and under, and if you make between \$0-\$75,000 in adjusted gross income for a single household, then you qualify for the maximum credit. Families with higher incomes may receive a smaller credit.

For more information on income qualifications, visit The White House's website.

Does my child need a Social Security number?



Yes, your child must have a Social Security number to qualify. However, a parent does not need a Social Security number—you can file with an ITIN.

Do I have to be employed to get the child tax credit?



No, you don't have to be working to receive the expanded child tax credit. Under the American Rescue Plan, the credit is now available to families who have no income at all.

Previously, families had to make at least \$2,500 to qualify and over \$30,000 to get the full child tax credit benefit. But that's no longer the case.

How much will I receive from the child tax credit?



The amount of money you will get depends on how old your children are and how many children you have.

- For each child 6-17 years old, you will receive \$3,000 total (or \$250 per month, from July to December 2021).
- For each child 5 and under, you will receive \$3,600 total (or \$300 per month, from July to December 2021).

The child tax credit will start to phase out if your adjusted gross income is above a certain amount. Payments will go down by \$50 for every \$1,000 of income earned above:

- \$75,000 for single filers
- \$112,500 for heads of household
- \$150,000 for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers

For more information on income qualifications, visit [The White House's website](#).

What do I have to do to get the child tax credit?



If you've already filed 2020 taxes, your monthly payment should come automatically.

If you haven't filed 2020 taxes:

- The best way to make sure you receive this benefit is to file your 2020 taxes as soon as possible. You can get help filing your taxes—it's not too late!
- Or, if you didn't make enough money to be required to file taxes, you can sign up for the child tax credit using a simple online tool.

To learn more about signing up as a non-filer, visit The White House's website.

Can I still get the child tax credit if I don't file taxes?



If you don't typically file taxes, or if you didn't make enough to be required to file taxes, you can sign up using a simple online tool available on the IRS website.

To learn more about signing up as a non-filer, visit The White House's website.

What if I want to update my bank information?



The IRS will soon launch a Child Tax Credit Update Portal, which will allow people to add or update bank information and check the status of their payments. The portal will also be available in Spanish. Check back here for updates.

When and how often will I receive the child tax credit payments?



Monthly payments start on July 15, 2021, and continue through December 2021. The 6 payment dates are July 15, August 13, September 15, October 15, November 15, and December 15, 2021.

Monthly payments will only be sent out for half of the total credit. You can claim the second half of your credit when you file taxes in 2022.

What if I want to receive the credit all at once?



If you'd rather claim the total child tax credit when you file taxes in 2022, you can opt out of the monthly payments. The IRS will soon launch a Child Tax Credit Update Portal that will allow you to opt out of the monthly payment program.

If you do opt out of monthly payments, you can't opt back in. You won't receive any of the credit until after you file your taxes next year.

Will I have to pay this back?



No, the child tax credit does not need to be paid back.

Will my other government benefits be impacted if I receive the child tax credit?



No, receiving the child tax credit will not impact or reduce any of your other government benefits, such as SNAP, SSI, SSDI, TANF, WIC, Section 8 or Public Housing. The child tax credit is not considered income and should not be reported as income for these programs.

For more information on other benefits, visit [The White House's website](#).

What happens if I have shared custody of my child?



Only one parent can claim the credit for a given child. Typically, this is the parent who has custody of the child for more time. But if there is a 50/50 split on custody, then the parent with the higher adjusted gross income gets to claim the child.

If both parents claim the same child, one of the parents may have to repay all or part of the payment next year.

I had a newborn baby in 2021. Do they qualify?



Yes, babies born or adopted in 2021 are eligible for the credit. The IRS will soon launch a Child Tax Credit Update Portal, which will allow people to update their dependents and income.

What's going to happen in the future? Is the expansion permanent?



Currently, the expansion of the child tax credit is temporary (in other words, only for 2021). However, there is an ongoing debate about making the expansion permanent. We are following closely and will update this site as soon as we know more.

If you have any additional questions please contact us at info@childtaxcredit.com.

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The Child Tax Credit Update portal mentioned above has launched! "The Child Tax Credit Update Portal allows families to verify their eligibility for the payments and if they choose to, unenroll, or opt out from receiving the monthly payments so they can receive a lump sum when they file their tax return nex ...**MORE**
