

**You may be eligible  
to receive a Federal  
income tax credit.**

**EITC tax preparation assistance  
in Douglas County is available at:**

- **Alexandria Technical College**  
1601 Jefferson Street  
Tax Lab 320-762-0221
- **Marion Building**  
700 Cedar Street  
Alexandria 1-800-492-4805 ext 100
- **Senior Community Center**  
414 Hawthorne Street  
Alexandria 320-762-2087
- **Senior Community Center**  
15 East Nokomis Street  
Osakis 320-859-2325
- **Senior Community Center**  
500 Douglas Street  
Parkers Prairie 218-756-2403

**Call today to make  
your appointment!**



**What to bring to your EITC appointment:**

- **Valid Picture I.D.**
- **Social Security # cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) letters for all persons listed on tax return.**
- **Birth dates for all persons listed on the tax return.**
- **Prior year tax return**  
Direct Deposit information showing account and routing numbers
- **Income Forms:**  
Wages from each job (Form W-2)  
Interest (Form 1099-INT)  
Dividends (Form 1099-DIV)  
Retirement Plans (Form 1099-R)  
Gambling Winnings (Form 1099-2G)  
Unemployment (Form 1099-G)  
Social Security Benefits (Form SSA)
- **Year-end Statements:**  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
MN Family Investment Program (MFIP)  
MN Supplemental Aid (MSA)  
General Assistance (GA)  
Veterans' Benefits  
Worker's Compensation  
Childcare Credit Forms  
Mortgage Interest /Rent Credit



**eitc**

**Earned Income Tax Credit**

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the **single biggest federal program to help low income families.**

It provides more assistance to families than all federal & state welfare programs combined.

**Are you missing  
out on a refund?**

Tax Clinics brought to you by:  
AccountAbility Minnesota  
West Central Initiative Fund  
Minnesota Department of Revenue  
West Central Minnesota Communities Action  
Printed by: United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties

## **EITC commonly asked questions:**

### **What is EITC?**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) sometimes called the Earned Income Credit (EIC), is a refundable Federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families.

Congress originally approved the tax credit legislation in 1975 in part to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work.

When the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit.

The EITC is the single biggest anti-poverty program in existence. It dwarfs programs like welfare and food stamps. Unfortunately, too few people claim the credit.

### **How much money is unclaimed?**

John Molinaro, West Central Initiative (WCI), has calculated that roughly \$5.5 million per year in EITC dollars is going unclaimed in our nine county region. “70% of the EITC refunds received by families are spent locally.

Using conservative economic multipliers, the region is passing up roughly \$25 million in annual economic activity”, says Molinaro.

### **How far back can I go ?**

Families are allowed to go back three years and file amended returns.

### **I didn't earn enough income that I would have to file, how do I get the Earned Income Tax Credit?**

Many of the potentially eligible workers don't know about the tax credit. Some are not required to file tax returns, but they can't take advantage of the EITC unless they file. In addition to the current year, if you were eligible for the three previous years, you can submit amended returns for those years.

### **Why don't people claim the Earned Income Tax Credit?**

Some do not know about it. Others who were never eligible may now be eligible due to change in job, unemployment, or family status. Others think that you have to have children to receive an EITC credit. In fact, very-low income individuals without children are eligible for a refund up to \$399.

Often enough, people such as grandparents are now taking care of their grandchildren in their home and until now they were never eligible but just don't know about it. If all other eligibility conditions are met, they too can claim the EITC tax credit.

### **How much of a refund credit can be received for the Earned Income Tax Credit?**

A qualifying, married couple with two or more qualifying children can have a credit up to \$4,400, with one child, up to \$2,662, and if you have no children, you could qualify up to \$399.

### **What is a refund anticipation loan?**

It is a high-cost, high-risk loan. Did you know that businesses that prepare taxes and offer “quick refunds” are just giving you a loan?

If the IRS should delay your refund, that loan can become immediately due. You may have already spent the money and owe the company who gave you the loan.

### **Don't pay to borrow your own money!**

### **Who qualifies for EITC?**

Determine if you are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Your eligibility depends on such factors as your filing status, income level, and the number of qualifying children you have, if any. This tool will not only determine your eligibility, but can also determine your filing status, and the number of your qualifying children, and it can estimate your credit amount.

- Single filers with no children and adjusted gross income of less than \$12,590 (Between 25-65 yrs old)
- Single filers with one child and adjusted gross income of less than \$33,241
- Single filers with two or more children and adjusted gross income of less than \$37,783
- Married couples filing jointly are allowed to earn \$2,000 more in each category.