

# Financial Aid Officers: Help Students Get Money from the Earned Income Tax Credit

This year, more people than ever before are eligible for the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – including college students age 18+ without dependents<sup>1</sup>. This tax credit gives students back money, up to \$1,502, to spend however they want – towards groceries, rent, a car, or more. All they need to do is file a tax return to claim this credit. Help students answer the questions below to find out if they are eligible<sup>2</sup> for the EITC.

**Does the student have a Social Security Number and are they a U.S. citizen or legal resident immigrant?**

Yes No — Not Eligible



**Did they make less than \$21,430 in 2021?**

Yes No — Not Eligible



**Was their main home in the U.S. for more than half of 2021?**

Yes No — Not Eligible



**Did they have investment income under \$10,000 in 2021 (such as interest, dividends, capital gain net income, and rental income)?**

Yes No — Not Eligible



...ages 18–24 and a qualified homeless youth<sup>3</sup> or transitioned out of foster care in 2021?



...ages 19–23 and either enrolled in only non-credit or continuing education courses in 2021?

OR

ages 19–23 enrolled in a credit bearing program, but at less than half the full-time course load in 2021?

OR

ages 19–23 enrolled in credit courses half-time or more for less than 5 months<sup>4</sup> in 2021?



...age 24 or older and made less than \$21,430 in 2021?

Yes No — Not Eligible



**Eligible – The student is eligible.**

## Special Circumstances

**Is the student a military member, member of the clergy, or taxpayer with disabilities? If so, check the specific IRS guidance below to determine if they qualify for the EITC:**

**[Military Rules for the Earned Income Tax Credit](#)**

**[Clergy Rules for the Earned Income Tax Credit](#)**

**[Disability and the Earned Income Tax Credit](#)**

## Help Spread the Word about EITC to Young Adults

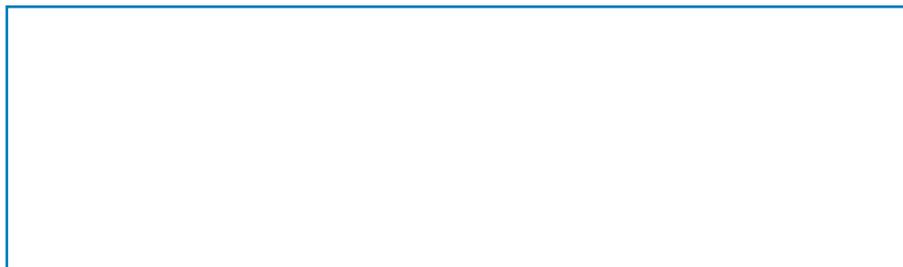
**Institutions like yours can reach out to students to educate them on the expanded EITC benefits and encourage them to claim their credit by filing a tax return.**



Through contact information available in student records, send text or email notifications to let students know about the expanded EITC and their potential eligibility. Direct them to any on-campus tax filing resources available or you can refer students to the IRS EITC Assistant tool and local IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) branches, which offer free tax preparation services for individuals who make \$58,000 or less, or [GetYourRefund.org](https://www.getyourrefund.org), which provides free tax help from IRS-certified volunteers.

Also consider a broader education campaign through campus communications such as online newsletters, websites, social media channels and share EITC resources like this student factsheet.

Get your money by filing your taxes for free at **[GetYourRefund.org](https://www.getyourrefund.org)**.



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- <sup>1</sup> If you are a parenting student, learn about whether you may be eligible for the EITC at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- <sup>2</sup> For additional guidance on EITC eligibility criteria, refer to IRS Form 596.
- <sup>3</sup> To learn more about what it means to be a qualified youth, visit the National Taxpayer Advocate Blog.
- <sup>4</sup> To determine if a student was enrolled for 5 months, count any month where they were enrolled half-time, even if they didn't go to school for the whole month. Check with your institution for additional guidance.