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## Earned Income Tax Credit Can Make Life a Little Easier

You or someone you know could be eligible to get more money back from the IRS - as much as \$5,751. Those who earned less than \$49,078 from wages, self-employment, or farming last year, may qualify for the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) - or EITC.

EITC is a financial boost for working people in a recovering economy. Millions will qualify for the first time because their financial, marital, or parental status changed in 2011. EITC helps working people pay bills, add to or start a savings account, and bolsters the local economy.

Eligibility is based on [several factors](#), including the amount of earned and other types of income, or combined income if married, and whether one has qualifying children and how many. Workers without children may also qualify.

Four of five eligible people claim and get their EITC. This past year, more than 2.9 million Californians received more than \$6.48 billion in refunds. The average EITC refund was \$2,229. Use IRS's online [EITC Assistant](#) to determine eligibility. Those who qualify must file and claim the credit to get it.

Free help is available at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Locate a VITA site by calling your community's 211 or 311 number for local services, call the IRS at 1-800-906-9887, or visit my website for a [list of locations](#) by county.

Let's tell the more than 800,000 working Californians who were eligible for EITC but did not claim it in 2011 "You earned it. Now file, claim it, and get it."