


# THE CHILD TAX CREDIT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The American Rescue Act expanded the existing Child Tax Credit. If you have children under 18, you may be eligible for a regular payment, even if you don't file taxes or have low/no earnings.

The new Child Tax Credit is worth **\$3,000 per year, per child ages 6-17** and **\$3,600 per year, per child under 6 years** . It will be paid out in regular payments, not once a year.

## To Get the Expanded Child Tax Credit:



- File your taxes, even if you don't file them normally. This will tell the IRS where to send your payment and how many children you have.
- If you need help filing your taxes for free, visit the United Way's website: <https://www.myfreetaxes.com/> or call their hotline: 866-698-9435. Their online tax filing program will walk you step-by-step through filing your taxes.

## You Are Eligible If:



- You are single and your income is under \$75,000. Or, if you are single and file taxes as a head of household, your income must be under \$112,500.
- You have a spouse and your combined income is under \$150,000.
- Your child has a Social Security Number. You can file with an ITIN, but your child must have a **SSN**.

## **When will I start receiving the payments?**

Households could receive checks beginning this summer or fall — the federal government is working out the details. You will only receive payments for half of the year, so you will have to claim the rest of your refund on next year's taxes.

## **Will getting the Child Tax Credit reduce my benefits?**

No, the Child Tax Credit does not count as income for federally-funded benefits, including SNAP.

## **I'm used to getting my refund at tax time. Does this mean I won't receive this money at tax time?**

The way the Child Tax Credit is set up this year, most households will receive periodic payments through 2021, and a lump sum at tax time. Those who qualify will still receive their Earned Income Tax Credit at tax time as well.

## **I don't usually file taxes. What will I need to file taxes so I can get the Child Tax Credit?**

An email address, ID, proof of income and/or benefits, and your child's Social Security Number.