



Head Start Can Help Your Family Access the Child Tax Credit Payments



The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC). As a result, most families, even those with little-to-no income, can receive the full amount. That amount is now \$300 per month per child under age 6, and \$250 for each child age 6 to 17.

You can now receive half of the total credit amount in advance monthly payments through December 2021. You can claim the other half when you file your 2021 income tax return.

Individual Taxpayer Income Number (ITIN) holders with children who have social security numbers, are eligible to receive this credit. This means that Immigrant families are included and eligible.

The following information explains how you can receive the Child Tax Credit that you are entitled to. At any step in the process, your Head Start Program can help you.

How to Get the Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Automatic Payments for Tax Filers. You will automatically be receiving advanced monthly Child Tax Credit payments, which began in July 2021, if you usually file taxes, you list child dependents on your tax return, and you filed a tax return in the past two years.

If you prefer to stop receiving advanced payments and would like to receive a larger sum during tax time, you can use the [Child Tax Credit Update Portal](#) to unenroll.

Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant. You are likely eligible for the full benefit if you are a single parent making less than \$112,500 a year and have children under age 18 who will live with you for more than half of 2021, or you are a married couple making less than \$150,000 a year and have children under age 18 who will live with you for more than half of 2021.

In addition, the CTC does not count as income when applying for other federal benefits, such as [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) or cash assistance. Use the [Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant](#) to find out if you are eligible for advance payments.

Child Tax Credit Non-filer Sign-up Tool. If you do not usually file taxes, you can still qualify for the Child Tax Credit if you meet eligibility requirements. Use the simple Child Tax Credit Non-filer Sign-up Tool to enroll quickly. [Child Tax Credit Update Portal](#).

Don't miss a payment. Use the [Child Tax Credit Update Portal](#) to update your bank account and mailing address. This feature will help any family that chooses to receive their payment by paper check avoid mailing delays or avoid having a check returned as undeliverable. You can also use the portal to check if you are enrolled to receive payments or view payments.

Our Head Start program can assist you with accessing the Child Tax Credit and with using these tools and portals. We are here to help. Just ask!

