



WINTER 2019



The L.B.J. & C. Head Start Headliner

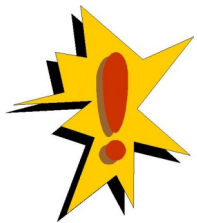
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L.B.J. & C. Head Start
1150 Chocolate Drive
Cookeville, TN 38501

Do I Qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?



The Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC or EIC, is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income. To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may give you a refund.

- how to get help preparing your return
- what you need to do if your EITC was denied in a previous year
- how to claim the credit for earlier tax years

This is for the tax year 2018 Earned Income and adjusted gross income (AGI). They each must be less than:

Filing Status	Qualifying Children Claimed			
	Zero	One	Two	Three +
Single, Head of Household or Surviving Spouse	\$15,270	\$40,320	\$45,802	\$49,194
Married Filing Jointly	\$20,950	\$46,010	\$51,492	\$54,884

When Can I Expect My Refund?

If you claim the earned income tax credit (EITC) or the additional child tax credit (ACTC) on your tax return, the IRS must hold your refund until mid-February — even the portion not associated with EITC or ACTC. Find out more on when to expect your refund.

After you file your return, the best way to track your refund is Where's My Refund? or the IRS2Go mobile app.

Who Qualifies

Do I Qualify for EITC?

To qualify for EITC you must have earned income from working for someone or from running or owning a business or farm and meet basic rules. And, you must either meet additional rules for workers without a qualifying child or have a child that meets all the qualifying child rules for you.

EITC Assistant

Use the EITC Assistant to see if you qualify for tax years: 2017, 2016, and 2015. The EITC Assistant helps you find out your filing status, if your child is a qualifying child, if you are eligible and estimate the amount of the EITC you may get.

Income Limits and Table

See the EITC Income Limits, Maximum Credit Amounts and Tax Law Updates for the current year, previous years and the upcoming tax year.

Claiming EITC

How Do I Claim EITC?

You need to file a tax return to claim EITC. Find out:

- the documents you need
- the common errors to watch for
- the consequences of filing an EITC return with an error

Received a Notice

I Received a Letter from IRS about EITC, What Should I Do?

We send letters about EITC that may:

- suggest you claim EITC if you do qualify
- ask you to send information to verify your EITC claim
- provide important information about your claim

This letter/notice page lets you know what you need to do if you receive a letter or notice from us about EITC.

Investment Income Limit

Investment income must be \$3,500 or less for the year.

Maximum Credit Amounts

The maximum amount of credit for Tax Year 2018 is:

- \$6,431 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,716 with two qualifying children
- \$3,461 with one qualifying child
- \$519 with no qualifying children

For more information on whether a child qualifies you for EITC, see:

- Qualifying Child Rules, or
- Publication 596, Rules If You Have a Qualifying Child.

Source: www.irs.gov

Steps to Take Now to Get a Jump on Next Year's Taxes

Reviewed or Updated December 19, 2018



The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act may affect your taxes.

Review new IRS Publication 5307, Tax Reform Basics for Individuals and Families, to learn about how the new tax law may affect your tax return next year.

Withholding

Due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, many taxpayers' withholding went down in 2018, giving them more money in their paychecks. Some taxpayers may receive a smaller refund or even owe an unexpected tax bill when they file their 2018 tax return next year.

Take these actions:

- Do a paycheck checkup to help decide if you need to adjust your withholding or make estimated or additional tax payments now.
- Submit a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate to your employer to change withholding.
- Make estimated or additional tax payments if the withholding from your salary, pension or other income doesn't cover the 2018 income tax that you'll owe for the year. Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals also has a worksheet to help you figure your estimated payments.

Get ready for your refund

The new tax law may affect the refund you expect. Review Publication 5307, Tax Reform Basics for Individuals and Families for more information.

If you claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit, the IRS cannot issue refunds before mid-February.

Renew your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

If you use an ITIN to file, make sure it hasn't expired. Visit [IRS.gov/ITIN](https://www.irs.gov/ITIN) for more information.

Get ready to file

The 2018 Form 1040 is a redesigned form and replaces Forms 1040A and 1040EZ.

If you file electronically, you will need your 2017 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to sign your return. If you're using the same tax software you used last year, you will not need to enter your prior year information to electronically sign your 2018 tax return.

Take these actions:

- Use Free File
- Learn how to get your AGI, verify your identity and electronically sign your e-file return.
- Get your transcript.
- Protect yourself from identity theft.

Get help

Tax Reform

Learn about how the new law may affect your filing requirements.

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

If you earn \$55,000 or less you may qualify for free tax help.

Taxpayer Assistance Centers

Visit us for a face-to-face help or call 844-545-5640 to make an appointment.

IRS Services Guide

A listing of IRS services.

Let us help you

Additional resources where you can get answers for various tax questions.

Source: www.irs.gov



Winter activities to keep children active

It's easy to think of fun, active things to do with kids when the sun is shining. It can be harder in winter. Here are some winter activities to get you going when it's cold or wet.

Ideas for winter activities

Free activities

There are plenty of free things you and your child can do around your home and neighborhood:

- Put on coats, hats and gloves and head outside. Show your child what the beach looks like in wild weather, or visit parks and gardens when the plants are all wet and glossy.
- Take your child to see how the flow of rivers, creeks and streams changes after rain.
- When it's wet, dress up in gumboots and raincoats. Look for some big puddles to jump in. An umbrella can be fun to take along too. Your child might have fun opening and closing it a few times.
- If it's darker, let your child play with a torch when you go out for a walk.
- Gather leaves, sticks, shells and stones from outside. You can take them inside and use them for sorting, painting or building.
- On a windy day, you can try flying kites, chasing leaves – or helping them 'fly' – and trying to find places to hide from the wind outside.



Indoor winter activities: free and at home

If you can't face the cold and wet, here are some ideas for winter activities you can do inside at home:

- Line up some empty plastic bottles inside and use a soft ball or old pair of socks to play indoor 'bowling'. Make it harder by adding some weight (like sand or water) inside the bottles.
- Encourage your child to throw a scarf up in the air and catch it on an arm, leg, knee, foot or head.
- Let your child kick a balloon up as high as possible, or use a fly swat or plastic bat to hit the balloon.
- Try using socks for soccer, tennis or puppet plays.
- Move to music, make up dances and play dress-ups.
- Build a fort together out of chairs and blankets.
- Set up an indoor treasure hunt.
- If you have space, set up an obstacle course around the living room.



Winter activities you need to pay for

As a special treat, your child might enjoy some of these paid activities:

- Indoor play centers, swimming, trampolining, ice-skating and ten-pin bowling can keep your child active inside.
- Traditional winter team sports like football, hockey, netball or rugby can be great for children when they're big enough and want to play. Look for sports where the rules have been modified so they're fun and safe for young children.
- If it's not too far or expensive, a trip to the snow can be great fun for snow play or tobogganing.

Source: Raising Children Network

L.B.J. & C. Head Start
1150 Chocolate Drive
Cookeville, TN 38501

Phone: (931) 528-3361
Fax: (931) 528-2409
Email: information@lbjc.org
url: www.lbjc.org



Recipients:


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Head Start Staff
Head Start Advisory Committee Members
Head Start Partners

Are You interested in getting your GED? Contact your T/TA Representative at your local center. Continuing education opportunities are available. College? Start Today!! It is never too late to learn.


10 Easy Ways to Cut Your Energy Bill This Winter

1. Crank Down. Turn your thermostat down by two degrees and wear a sweater.
2. Fill Up. Ensure the dishwasher is full before you turn it on.
3. Morning Retreat. A low-flow showerhead requires less water and, by extension, needs less heat to warm the water.
4. A Cooler Cool. Simply cleaning the condenser coil on your refrigerator can improve its efficiency.
5. Clean Heat. Cleaning your furnace filter every two months can increase its efficiency by 50 percent.
6. Time it right. Install a timer on your water heater and furnace to turn it off at night and back on just before you wake up in the morning. Few people realize that waiting to do electricity-heavy activities (such as laundry or showering) before 7 am and after 10 pm can hugely reduce your energy requirements and costs.
7. Be Caulk-y. Before you feel the full force of winter, weatherproof your home.
8. Vampires Beware. Unplug home electronics when you're not using them.
9. Dry Smart. Dry two or more loads of laundry in a row to take advantage of an already warm dryer. Remove the clothes from the dryer when they're still warm to prevent wrinkling. And clean the lint filter before every load.
10. Light solutions. Replace your home's incandescent light bulbs with CFL or LED bulbs.

Source: www.greenlivingonline.com





HEY, PARENTS!



Hey Parents, Start the New Year off right!

Check out PBS Parents: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

This one stop information center has expert tips and advice to help you be an awesome parent for your child. This free site has ideas for birthday parties, a child development tracker, games, art and craft activities, and lots of other information at your fingertips. Read articles and find answers to your questions about any topic that involves your child! Make 2018 the best year ever for your family.



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*"Life is
10% what
happens to
you and
90% how
you react
to it."*

-- Charles
R. Swindoll



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