

# File your 2020 taxes by May 17<sup>th</sup>—even if you don't normally file—to get important cash and tax credits!



The recently enacted [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#) included important benefits that can help get cash to your family and provide immediate tax relief. These include:

## ■ Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC):

- Families will receive **\$3,600 per child under age 6 and \$3,000 per child age 6 to 17**, half of which will be paid out in advance in monthly installments between July and December 2021.

## ■ Stimulus checks:

- The ARP included an additional round of stimulus checks in the amount of **\$1,400 for each adult, child, and adult dependent.**

## ■ Expanded Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit (CDTC):

- Families will be **reimbursed for up to 50 percent of their child care costs** up to \$8,000 for families with one child and up to \$16,000 for families with two or more children. For example, a low-income family with one child that spends at least \$8,000 per year on child care will receive a refundable credit of \$4,000.

## ■ Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

- Workers without dependent children will receive a much larger EITC benefit. This change nearly triples the maximum credit for these workers from \$543 to \$1,502.
- Young workers ages 19-24 who are not full-time students and workers ages 65 and older are newly eligible for the EITC. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and youth in foster care are now eligible for the EITC starting at age 18.



**Even if you don't have any income or don't normally file, you should file your 2020 tax return by May 17<sup>th</sup> deadline to get the cash to which you are entitled.**

## ■ This is an important step because:

- You might not have received all of the money owed to you and your family.
- You might be eligible for more cash benefits through tax credits, including for your children.
- You might be eligible to receive a stimulus payment now – this means cash immediately available for your family.
- You may also be eligible for additional, state-level tax benefits. Check whether your state offers additional benefits [here](#).

- While some of these benefits won't take effect until later in the year or until you file your taxes next year, it is important to file your 2020 taxes NOW so the IRS can send you and your family your benefits.
- **Remember:** you do not need earnings from work to qualify for either the Child Tax Credit or the stimulus checks.



**Need help filling your taxes? Here are some resources to find free tax preparation assistance:**

- **To find a location for free, in-person tax help for those who qualify**—including taxpayers who make less than \$57,000, taxpayers with disabilities, and Limited English-speaking taxpayers—check out [the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) locator](#) to search by zip code.
- **For additional information on your tax refund, stimulus check, or how you can work with an IRS-certified tax specialist for free**, check out [GetYourRefund.org](#), an initiative of Code for America (English and Spanish).
- **To do your taxes online for free**, check out [IRS Free File](#) programs for families with incomes below \$72,000.
- **Are you a senior in need of tax assistance?** Check out [Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) and AARP's [Tax-Aide Site locator tool](#) if you are age 50 or older.
- **If you need to find a legal service clinic or a taxpayer clinic**, local legal services organizations and Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) provide help to families in need of legal advice and tax preparation. Find one near you [here](#) and [here](#).
- **If you need an extension past May 17 to file your federal tax returns**, check out this [IRS page](#) for resources on an extension until October 15.

**DON'T FORGET: File your 2020 taxes by May 17<sup>th</sup> to get the money you and your family are owed!**