

January 24, 2019

Media contacts: Department of Revenue: Joy Krawczyk, 503-945-7796, joy.krawczyk@oregon.gov. Department of Human Services: Christine Stone, 503-602-8027, christine.l.stone@state.or.us.

Oregonians can get a larger tax refund with the Earned Income Tax Credit – but many don't know this

Friday, January 25, 2019 is Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit distributed about \$63 billion to 5 million eligible workers and families last year nationwide. The average amount of EITC received was about \$2,488 and up to \$6,269 if the person filing has qualifying children.

But, many Oregonians don't know that they are eligible.

That's why Friday, January 25, 2019 has been designated Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day. This is a national effort to reach out to individuals and families with low incomes to increase awareness of the federal tax credit and local free tax preparation help. People are encouraged to visit [IRS' website](#) today to learn more about the credit and eligibility requirements.

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Revenue are working with other state agencies and community partners to encourage taxpayers to learn more about this credit and find out if they're eligible.

To be eligible, taxpayers must have earned income last year. The taxpayer and all individuals claimed on their federal return must have valid Social Security numbers (SSN). Other eligibility requirements for filers include:

- They can't use the "married filing separate" filing status.
- Children they're claiming on their return can't be the qualifying child of another person.

- They must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire year (in most cases).

The guidelines below are for 2018:

Number of children:	Single workers with income less than:	Married workers with income less than:	EITC up to:
3 or more children	\$49,194	\$54,884	\$6,431
2 children	\$45,802	\$51,492	\$5,716
1 child	\$40,320	\$46,010	\$3,461
No children	\$15,270	\$20,950	\$519

Taxpayers can use the [IRS' EITC Assistant](#) to further check their eligibility.

Those who qualify for the EITC can also claim Oregon's Earned Income Credit (EIC), which is eight percent of the taxpayer's federal credit (or 11 percent for those with a qualifying child under three).

Those who need help determining if they're eligible for certain tax credits or need assistance with filing their federal or Oregon return have some free or low-cost options. Some companies offer free tax preparation software and e-filing for eligible taxpayers. To see these offers, visit www.oregon.gov/dor and search for "free tax preparation."

AARP and CASH Oregon provide free or low-cost, in-person tax preparation services throughout Oregon. To see their locations, visit www.aarp.org or www.cashoregon.org. People can also call 211 to find free tax return preparation sites.

For more information on the EITC, visit www.irs.gov. For questions about Oregon taxes, call the Department of Revenue at 503-378-4988. For questions about the Department of Human Services call, 503-945-5600.

###

