

Comparing the Eligibility Requirements for the EIC and the CTC

EIC	CTC
Qualifying Child	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Son, daughter, grandchild, stepchild or an adopted child. ■ Brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister (and their descendants). ■ Foster child <i>placed with worker by a government or private agency.</i> 	
Residency of Child	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must live with worker in the U.S. for more than half the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must live with worker in the U.S. for more than half the year. Exception: A non-custodial parent who is permitted by a divorce or separation agreement to claim the child as a dependent.
Age of Child	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Under age 19, or under 24 if a full-time student, or any age if totally and permanently disabled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Under age 17.
Income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 child — under \$36,052. ■ 2 or more children — under \$40,964. ■ 3 or more children — under \$43,998. ■ No children — under \$13,660. ■ Income limits for married workers are \$5,080 higher. ■ Investment income cannot exceed \$3,150. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must earn <i>more than</i> \$3,000. ■ No limit on investment income.
Credit Amount	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 child — <i>up to</i> \$3,094. ■ 2 children — <i>up to</i> \$5,112. ■ 3 or more children — <i>up to</i> \$5,751. ■ No children — <i>up to</i> \$464. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Up to</i> \$1,000 per child.
Dependency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not required (except for a claim by a married parent who separated from his or her spouse during the first half of the year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must be able to claim child as a dependent and claim the exemption on the return.
Immigration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Worker, spouse and qualifying child must each have a valid SSN that permits them to work legally in the U.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child must be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien; SSN or ITIN for parents and children is required.
Sources of Earned Income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wages, salary, tips. ■ Earnings from self-employment. ■ Union strike benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Employer-paid disability. ■ Military combat pay (tax filer can choose to count for EIC, must count for CTC).
Special Forms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Schedule EIC required for workers claiming children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Form 8812 "Additional Child Tax Credit."
Impact on Public Benefits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not considered income for any federally funded program, foster care or adoption assistance. ■ Does not count toward resource limits for any federally funded program for 12 months after receipt. ■ Rules regarding other benefit programs are state-determined. 	