

Q& A: Social Security Number Requirements

Who needs a Social Security number?

To claim the EIC, valid Social Security numbers must be provided for each filer listed on the tax return and any child claimed for the EIC, *including infants born before December 31, 2009*. Only valid Social Security numbers issued to U.S. citizens or Social Security numbers issued to non-citizens who have permission to work legally in the United States are acceptable. *For more information, see “EIC and CTC: Eligibility Rules for Immigrant Workers” below.*

To claim the CTC, workers and qualifying children must have either a valid Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). *For more information on ITINs, see the fact sheet “Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers” in the [Links to IRS Tax Forms and Information](#) section.*

Workers who don’t have Social Security numbers for their children by the tax filing deadline can still get the EIC or CTC by:

- Filing their tax return without claiming the credits and then, after receiving the Social Security number, filing an “amended return” ([Form 1040X](#)) and attaching Schedule EIC (and Form 8812 if required for the CTC), OR
- Filing [Form 4868](#) to request an extension on their tax filing deadline to August 15. *To have an application for a Social Security number sent to your home, call 1-800-772-1213. Or call the Social Security Administration office in your state to find out how to apply.*