



Child Tax Credit Payments in 2021

Important changes to the child tax credit will help many families get advance credit payments starting this summer. The IRS will pay half the total credit amount in advance monthly payments **beginning July 15**. You will claim the other half when you file your 2021 income tax return. These changes apply to tax year 2021 only.

To qualify for advance Child Tax Credit payments, you—and your spouse, if you filed a joint return—must have:

- Filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return and claimed the Child Tax Credit on the return; **or**
- Given the IRS your information in 2020 to receive the Economic Impact Payment using the Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here tool; **and**
- Owned a main home in the United States for more than half the year (the 50 states and the District of Columbia) or filed a joint return with a spouse who has a main home in the United States for more than half the year; **and**
- Claimed as a dependent a qualifying child who is under age 18 at the end of 2021 and who has a valid Social Security number; **and**
- Made less than certain income limits.

The government will use the information you provided earlier to determine if you qualify and automatically enroll you for advance payments. You do not need to take any additional action to get advance payments.

How Much is the Tax Credit?

The American Rescue Plan Act expands the child tax credit for tax year 2021. The maximum credit amount has **increased to \$3,000 per qualifying child between ages 6 and 17** and **\$3,600 per qualifying child under age 6**.

If you're eligible, you could receive part of the credit in 2021 through advance payments of up to:

- \$250 per month for each qualifying child aged 6 to 17 at the end of 2021
- \$300 per month for each qualifying child under age 6 at the end of 2021

The expansion of the credit also means it:

- Is fully refundable, meaning you can claim the credit even if you don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes
- Now includes children who turn 17 in 2021
- Allows you to receive half of the 2021 estimated credit, in advance

See [Advance Child Tax Credit Payments in 2021](#) on [IRS.gov](#) for details on eligibility, timing of monthly payments, helpful resources and more.

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