

Understanding the Advance Child Tax Credit

What is the Advance Child Tax Credit?

The advance Child Tax Credit is a tax credit for low-and middle-income families with children. For 2021, the IRS will send half of the credit out in monthly payments between July and December. You can claim the rest of the credit by filing a 2021 tax return.

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Q: When will the payments start going out?

A: The IRS began sending payments out on July 15, 2021. The IRS will make these payments every month until December 31, 2021.

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Q: Do I qualify for the advance Child Tax Credit?

A: To qualify for the advance Child Tax Credit, you must have filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return. You must have an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 if you filed as single, \$112,000 as head of household, or \$150,000 if you filed jointly. The parent or spouse must have lived in the U.S. for over half of the year. Finally, a dependent is eligible to receive the credit as long as they are under the age of 18 at the end of 2021 and have a social security number.

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Q: How much am I eligible to receive?

A: Families are eligible to receive \$300 a month for each child under the age of 6 and \$250 a month for each child age 6 through 17 for the remainder of 2021.

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Q: I am not required to file a tax return. How can I claim the advance Child Tax Credit?

A: You can claim the advance Child Tax Credit by using the IRS Child Tax Credit Non-Filer Sign-Up Tool. Visit <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-filer-sign-up-tool> to sign up for the advance Child Tax Credit if you are not required to file a return.

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Q: My information changed since I filed my last tax return. How can I let the IRS know about these changes?

A: The IRS has a portal that will allow you to check if you are enrolled to receive the advance Child Tax Credit. If you want to have the IRS deposit your payments into a bank account, or if you want to update the bank account you receive payments in, go to <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-update-portal> to make these changes.



Q: Are the advance Child Tax Credit payments permanent?

A: No. The monthly payments for the advance Child Tax Credit stop at the end of 2021.



Q: What if I don't receive all the payments that I am eligible for?

A: If you don't receive some or all of the advance Child Tax Credit payments that you are eligible to receive, you can claim these payments when you file a 2021 tax return.



Q: Will the IRS take my advance Child Tax Credit payments to pay for past due federal taxes or child support?

A: The IRS will not take the monthly advance Child Tax Credit Payments to pay back past-due federal and state taxes, past-due child support, or past due student loan debt. Also, advance Child Tax Credit Payments cannot be garnished by creditors or collectors once they are in your bank account.

Please understand that if you don't receive some or all of the monthly payments and file a 2021 tax return to claim these payments, the IRS can take that amount to pay for past due taxes, child support, and student loan debt.

If you have questions or need legal assistance, please call the
Legal Aid line at (513) 241-9400