



## How You Can Afford Quality Child Care

At the Child Care Council of Westchester we know that quality early care and education is expensive. There are several tax benefits and programs that can put more money in your hands; money that you can use for child care and other household expenses. For more information about how to find or afford care, please call the Council at (914) 761-3456 x140.

### Detailed info forms and assistance for all tax credits can be found at:

- Federal (IRS): 1-800-829-1040 or [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- State: 1-518-457-5181 [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)
- Free tax preparation and assistance is offered through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). A list of VITA providers can be obtained at your local IRS office or by calling 2-1-1 or on the [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) website.
- In Westchester County, the local IRS office is located in White Plains at 210 East Post Road, White Plains, NY 10601. Phone: (914) 684-7302.

### Summary of Tax Credits:

#### 1. Child and Dependent Care Credit

This is a tax benefit that helps you pay for the child care you need in order to work or look for work. It reduces the amount of federal income tax you pay by lowering the amount you owe. Anything left over after your taxes are paid may be refunded to you. The size of your credit is determined by the number of children in your care, your income and the amount you paid for child care. If you are eligible you can expect to receive 20-35% of child/dependent care expenses depending on income.

If you qualify for the Federal Child/Dependent Care Credit, you would qualify the New York State Child/Dependent Care Credit. This credit is a minimum of 20% and as much as 110% of the Federal credit.

Both the Federal and State Child/Dependent Care Tax Credits are fully refundable, which means that you can get back more money than you actually paid in State or Federal taxes.



**You Qualify for the Child/Dependent Care Credit if all of these is true:**

- You paid for care for a qualifying child under age 13
- You need child/dependent care to work or look for work
- You are married or joint filers you must have paid less for child care than the income of the spouse with the lowest income
- You use any type of care including a center, family child care, camp, in-home or a church; neighbor or relative (except a spouse & dependent child).

Please note:

- You cannot apply for credit if you receive free child care.
- You must identify the care provider on your tax return; including the care providers name, address and taxpayer identification number/social security number. You can use Form W-10, *Dependent Care Provider's Identification and Certification*, to request this information from the care provider.

**How to Apply for the Child/Dependent Care Credit**

- File a federal tax return 1040 with Schedule 2441 attached or 1040A.
- For the New York State Child/Dependent Care Credit you must complete form IT-216 "Claim for Child and Dependent Care Credit" and attach it to your New York State Income Tax return.

**2. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

This is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income. To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may give you a refund.

You must have a qualifying child(ren) under 19 (or under 24 if a full-time student or permanently and totally disabled regardless of age) live with you for more than 6 months of the year.

Both the Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credits are fully refundable, which means that you can get back more money than you actually paid in State or Federal taxes.

If you qualify for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit, you would qualify for the New York State Earned Income Tax Credit, which is worth 30% of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit.



**Who Qualifies for the EITC?**

Depending on your income, if you are single or married and work full or part time during the previous year, you may qualify for the EITC. If you are new to this country, are legally authorized to work, and meet other eligibility requirements you can qualify for the EITC.

**2017 EITC income levels and tax credit**

Number of Qualifying Children	Single workers with income less than	Married workers with income less than	Maximum Tax Credit for 2017
<b>Zero</b>	\$15,010	\$20,600	\$510
<b>One</b>	\$39,617	\$45,207	\$3,400
<b>Two</b>	\$45,007	\$50,597	\$5,616
<b>3 or more</b>	\$48,340	\$53,930	\$6,318

Source: IRS.gov

**2018 EITC income levels and tax credit**

Number of Qualifying Children	Single workers with income less than	Married workers with income less than	Maximum Tax Credit for 2018
<b>Zero</b>	\$15,310	\$21,000	\$520
<b>One</b>	\$40,402	\$46,102	\$3,468
<b>Two</b>	\$45,898	\$51,598	\$5,728
<b>3 or more</b>	\$49,298	\$54,998	\$6,444

Source: IRS.gov

**How Do I Apply?**

- You must file either a 1040 or 1040A with a Schedule EITC attached.
- Married couples must file jointly to get the EITC.
- Name and social security numbers must be provided for every person listed on the tax return and schedule.
- You don't have to calculate your own EITC; the IRS will do it for you.
- For the New York State EITC you must complete form IT-215 "Claim for Earned Income Tax Credit" and attach it to your New York State Income Tax Return.



### **3. Child Tax Credit (CTC) for Working Families**

This is a federal tax credit which can be worth up to \$1,000 per qualifying child. It does not count as income in determining eligibility for other benefit programs. You may be eligible for the credit even if you owe no income taxes. The credit is used first to eliminate any income tax owed. If there is an amount remaining after the taxes are paid, all or part may be refunded to you.

#### **Who Qualifies for the Child Tax Credit?**

- Single or married adults with a qualifying child under the age of 17.
- Must have either a social security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

#### **How Do I Apply?**

- File federal income tax return 1040A or 1040NR only.
- You can apply for the Additional Child Tax Credit (file form 8812) which may give you a refund even if you do not owe any taxes.