

Tips

- ▶ For help with EIC:
 - ◇ For specific tax questions, seek professional tax assistance or contact the IRS Hotline at 1-800-TAX-1040 during weekday business hours.
 - ◇ Ask about free tax help (VITA) at your local library or UW-Extension Office.
 - ◇ Call the Wisconsin Department of Revenue at 1-608-266-2772 or 1-608-266-2486.

- ▶ To find the needed forms (Ask for Schedule EIC and Publication 596: Earned Income Credit):
 - ◇ Check with your local Post Office or Library
 - ◇ Call 1-800-TAX-FORM (IRS forms)

- ▶ If you could have received EIC in past years, but didn't apply, you can file amended forms for the past three years.

- ▶ If you would like to learn more about managing your EIC dollars or planning spending, call Michelle Tidemann, Family Living Educator at the Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Office, 227 Administration Extension Bldg., 400 University Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935. Phone: (920) 929-3174.

- ▶ For more information about EIC and other tax credits for limited income families, go to <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/econ>

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Updated information by Judi Bartfeld, UW-Extension Family Living Programs, 370A Human Ecology, 1300 Linden Drive, Madison WI 53706. February 2009.



Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties

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<http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/wnep>



Earned Income Credit means extra cash for working families.

You may qualify for both the federal and state EIC. Even workers whose earnings are too small to have taxes withheld can get the EIC.

This information is published by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with the USDA and Wisconsin counties. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a tax benefit for low or moderate income workers who are:

- Working persons with at least one child living at home.
- Working persons without children who are 25-64 years old.

Federal EIC is for workers who earn less than:

- \$33,995* (and up to \$36,995 if married) and have one child living with them.
- \$38,646* (and up to \$41,646 if married) and have two or more children living with them.
- \$12,880* (and up to \$15,880 if married) but have no children and are 25-64 years of age.

Wisconsin EIC – must have lived in Wisconsin all of 2008 and must qualify for federal EIC to get the state EIC:

- \$33,995* (and up to \$36,995 if married) and have one child living with them.
- \$38,646* (\$41,646 if married) and have two or more children living with them.
- There is no state EIC for couples without children.

*These amounts change slightly each year. The numbers used here are for the 2008 tax year.

What counts as Earned Income?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
+ Wages, salaries	- SSI
+ Union strike benefits	- Food Stamps
+ Long-term disability pay	- Low-income housing payments
+ Net earnings from self-employment	- Worker's compensation
+ Military pay & allowances	- Child support
+ Cash wages	- Alimony
+ Earnings from W-2 trial job	- Social Security benefits
	- Payments from a W-2 transitional grant or a W-2 community service job.

How do I get the Earned Income Credit?

You can obtain Earned Income Credit benefits only by filing both Federal and Wisconsin Income Tax Returns. A person must have had a job or been self-employed during the year to receive the credit.

For Federal EIC: Workers with children should fill out a Schedule EIC and Form 1040 **OR** 1040A - not 1040EZ. Workers without children can file any tax form.

For Wisconsin EIC: Fill out Wisconsin Form 1 or 1A, which includes a claim for EIC based on the Federal Earned Income Credit. Need Federal EIC amount from Schedule EIC.

For Advance Payment Option:

Qualifying persons with children can receive part of the basic Federal EIC throughout the year in each paycheck rather than one large check at year end. You can arrange with your employer for this **Advance** option, by completing a W-5 form (the form must be filed with employer each year). The State EIC is not available as an advance.

Will getting the EIC affect my welfare benefits?

A family's EIC payments do not count as income in determining eligibility or benefit levels for W-2, Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI, or public or subsidized housing.

***Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)** is supported by the USDA Food Stamp Program, UW-Extension, FoodShare Wisconsin, and local partners. In Wisconsin, FoodShare can help provide a healthy diet. To find out more about FoodShare, call (920)929-3920, (920)929-3187 or 1-800-525-3187. You can also go online to: www.access.wi.gov to see if you are eligible.*

*For more information on consumer issues and financial literacy/money management, contact Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 400 University Drive, RM AE227, Fond du Lac WI 54935
Phone: 920-929-3174*