

FAMILY TAX CREDITS

TAX YEAR 2015



IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND TAXES: Why It's Important to File a Tax Return!

You work hard to support your family. Here are three reasons you should file a federal and state tax return in 2016 for wages earned in 2015.

1. When you file a tax return, **you are complying with the law**. Regardless of your status, if your income is above a certain amount (for example, \$10,300 if you are single and under 65 or \$20,600 if you are married and both spouses are under 65), you must file a tax return. In general, all information that you provide on your tax return is confidential, and won't be shared with other agencies or individuals.
2. You may be eligible for a **tax refund**, as well as **valuable tax credits** like the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Care Tax Credit, or Premium Tax Credit to help you pay for health insurance. And you may be eligible for other state tax credits as well! For more information, visit www.nwlc.org/loweryourtaxes.
3. You are helping to document information that can be useful in **future immigration proceedings**—like income, residence in the U.S., “good moral character,” and whether you are married.

YOU MAY NEED TO REAPPLY FOR A NEW ITIN!

- Immigrants who are ineligible for a Social Security Number are required to file their taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).
- A new law passed last year will require many individuals to renew their ITINs. However, the IRS has not yet established requirements and procedures for this “revalidation” process. It is important to visit <https://www.nilc.org/issues/taxes/itinfaq/> (Spanish language materials are available at <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/ITIN-facts-Q-and-A-Sp.pdf>) or the [IRS website](http://www.irs.gov) regularly for updates on these requirements.

You may qualify for FREE help preparing your taxes. Find out more by calling the **IRS toll-free at (800) 906-9887**, or visiting <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>. If you need legal help to solve a dispute with the IRS, you may qualify for help from a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. Find a clinic near you at <http://www.irs.gov/Advocate/Low-Income-Taxpayer-Clinics/Low-Income-Taxpayer-Clinic-Map>.

If you do not use free tax preparation services, beware of notario fraud. Untrained and dishonest tax preparers may misrepresent their credentials and may promise large refunds. However, in case of errors, the taxpayer, not the tax preparer, must pay any additional taxes and interest owed and may be subject to penalties.