



[IRS.gov/ChildTaxCredit](https://www.irs.gov/ChildTaxCredit)



Claiming the **2021 Child Tax Credit** When You Don't Normally File a Tax Return



If you don't normally file a tax return, but [you're eligible for the Child Tax Credit](#), you can still claim the [Child Tax Credit](#) on a 2021 tax return – even if you had no income in 2021. Advance payments sent in 2021 were not the full amount of the credit.

The 2021 Child Tax Credit is \$3,600 for each qualifying child under age 6 and \$3,000 for each child age 6 to 17.

Learn more at [2021 Child Tax Credit Frequently Asked Questions](#).

[IRS Free File](#) is a great electronic option for people who are only filing a tax return to claim the Child Tax Credit.

The most secure and fastest way to get a tax refund, which would include your Child Tax Credit, is to combine electronic filing with [direct deposit](#).

The IRS's [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) program offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.



IRS.gov/rrc



Claiming the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit When You Don't Normally File a Tax Return

Most eligible people already received their stimulus payments and are not eligible to claim a credit.



If you're **eligible** and didn't receive the full third Economic Impact Payments, you may be eligible to claim the **Recovery Rebate Credit**. To claim it, you must file a 2021 tax return even if you otherwise are not **required to file a tax return**. Your 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit will be included in your tax refund.

To file accurately and avoid processing delays, you'll need the **total amount of any third Economic Impact Payments** you received.

You can find this information on your individual **Online Account** or in Letter 6475, titled Your Third Economic Impact Payment, which the IRS is sending to confirm your total amount of payments for tax year 2021.

IRS Free File is a great option for people who are only filing a tax return to claim the **2021 Recovery Rebate Credit**.

The most secure and fastest way to get a tax refund, which would include your Recovery Rebate Credit, is to combine electronic filing with **direct deposit**.

See the special section on IRS.gov about **claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit if you aren't required to file a tax return**.