

## How Does Claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit Affect My Eligibility for Public Benefits?



Each public benefit program has its own requirements for the amount of income and resources you can have and still qualify for the benefit. Examples of resources—or assets—include money in a savings or checking account or a retirement account.

This flyer explains some things you should know about the EITC before your next re-certification for public benefit programs in New York City.

<p><b>Food Stamps</b></p>	<p>The year-end EITC (received in one lump sum) <i>does not</i> count as income. Advanced EITC (received monthly) <i>does not</i> count as income in the month it is received. Most people no longer have to pass a resource test to be eligible for Food Stamps. If you do have a resource test, the EITC <i>does not</i> count as long as it is “identifiable.”</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>NYS Food Stamp Source Book</i>, Section 12 &amp; 16; <i>NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTADA)</i>, 09-INF-01; <i>NYC Family Independence Administration</i>, Policy Bulletin #07-76-OPE</p>
<p><b>Medicaid/ Family Health Plus</b></p>	<p>The EITC <i>does not</i> count as income. The EITC <i>does not</i> count as a resource in the month received or the following month. For Supplemental Security Income (SSI)-eligible individuals (blind, disabled, or aged 65+), the EITC <i>does not</i> count as a resource in the month received or the following nine months. Pregnant women are not subject to a resource test.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>NYS Medicaid Reference Guide</i>, Page 130, 317, 322</p>
<p><b>Child Health Plus (A &amp; B)</b></p>	<p>Child Health Plus A &amp; B have no resource limits, so the EITC <i>does not</i> affect eligibility.</p>
<p><b>Public Assistance (Welfare)</b></p>	<p>The EITC (monthly or year-end) <i>does not</i> count as income or as a resource as long as it is “identifiable.”</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>Chapter 18, NYS Temporary Assistance Source Book; NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTADA)</i>, 09-INF-01; <i>NYC Family Independence Administration</i> Policy Bulletin #07-76-OPE</p>
<p><b>Public Housing &amp; Section 8</b></p>	<p>The EITC <i>does not</i> count as income for determining initial income eligibility or tenant rent payments. However, if the EITC is deposited into an interest-bearing account (such as a savings account), your eligibility or rent payments may be affected if there is an increase in your income <i>from the interest earned on your resources</i>, including the EITC.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook</i>, Chapter 5</p>
<p><b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b></p>	<p>The EITC <i>does not</i> count as income. The EITC <i>does not</i> count as a resource for nine months.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov">www.socialsecurity.gov</a></p>

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**\*\*BRING THIS FLYER & A COPY OF YOUR TAX RETURNS TO YOUR NEXT RE-CERTIFICATION MEETING.** Benefit programs may require a copy of your tax returns. Tell your caseworker that you received the EITC (which is different from a tax refund).

Families earning less than \$42,000 and individuals earning less than \$16,000 annually could be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). To find free and low-cost tax preparation, call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/ofe](http://nyc.gov/ofe).