



[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.