

# 2010 Form W-5



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

## Instructions

### Purpose of Form

Use Form W-5 if you are eligible to get part of the earned income credit (EIC) in advance with your pay and choose to do so. See *Who Is Eligible To Get Advance EIC Payments?* below. The amount you can get in advance generally depends on your wages. If you are married, the amount of your advance EIC payments also depends on whether your spouse has filed a Form W-5 with his or her employer. However, your employer cannot give you more than \$1,830 throughout 2010 with your pay. You will get the rest of any EIC you are entitled to when you file your 2010 tax return and claim the EIC.

If you do not choose to get advance payments, you can still claim the EIC on your 2010 tax return.

### What Is the EIC?

The EIC is a credit for certain workers. It reduces the tax you owe. It may give you a refund even if you do not owe any tax.

### Who Is Eligible To Get Advance EIC Payments?

You are eligible to get advance EIC payments if **all four** of the following apply.

1. You (and your spouse, if filing a joint return) have a valid social security number (SSN) issued by the Social Security Administration. For more information on valid SSNs, see Pub. 596, Earned Income Credit (EIC).

2. You expect to have at least one qualifying child and to be able to claim the credit using that child. If you do not expect to have a qualifying child, you may still be eligible for the EIC, but you cannot receive advance EIC payments. See *Who Is a Qualifying Child?* beginning on this page.

3. You expect that your 2010 earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) will each be less than \$35,535 (\$40,545 if you expect to file a joint return for 2010). Include your spouse's income if you plan to file a joint return. As used on this form, earned income does not include amounts inmates in penal institutions are paid for their work or amounts received as a pension or annuity from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan or a nongovernmental

section 457 plan. Generally, earned income also does not include nontaxable earned income, but you can elect to include nontaxable combat pay in earned income.

4. You expect to be able to claim the EIC for 2010. To find out if you may be able to claim the EIC, answer the questions on page 2.

### How To Get Advance EIC Payments

If you are eligible to get advance EIC payments, fill in the 2010 Form W-5 at the bottom of this page. Then, detach it and give it to your employer. If you get advance payments, you must file a 2010 Form 1040 or 1040A income tax return.

You may have only one Form W-5 in effect at one time. If you and your spouse are both employed, you should file separate Forms W-5.

This Form W-5 expires on December 31, 2010. If you are eligible to get advance EIC payments for 2011, you must file a new Form W-5 next year.



You may be able to get a larger credit when you file your 2010 return. For details, see Additional Credit on page 3.

### Who Is a Qualifying Child?

A qualifying child is any child who meets all four of the following conditions.

1. The child is your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild, niece, or nephew). An adopted child is always treated as your own child. An adopted child includes a child lawfully placed with you for legal adoption. A foster child is any child placed with you by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

2. The child is under age 19 at the end of 2010 and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly); or under age 24 at the end of 2010, a student, and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly); or any age and permanently and totally disabled. A student is a child who during any 5 months of 2010 (a) was enrolled as a full-time student at a school or (b) took a full-time, on-farm training course given by a school or a state, county, or local government

(continued on page 3)

Give the bottom part to your employer; keep the top part for your records.

Detach here

Form **W-5**

## Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate

OMB No. 1545-0074

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

- ▶ Use the current year's certificate only.
- ▶ Give this certificate to your employer.
- ▶ This certificate expires on December 31, 2010.

**2010**

Print or type your full name

Your social security number

**Note.** If you get advance payments of the earned income credit for 2010, you **must** file a 2010 federal income tax return. To get advance payments, you **must** have a qualifying child and your filing status must be any status **except** married filing a separate return.

- 1 I expect to have a qualifying child and be able to claim the earned income credit for 2010 using that child. I do not have another Form W-5 in effect with any other current employer, and I choose to get advance EIC payments  Yes  No
- 2 Check the box that shows your expected filing status for 2010:  
 Single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)  Married filing jointly
- 3 If you are married, does your spouse have a Form W-5 in effect for 2010 with any employer? . . . . .  Yes  No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that the information I have furnished above is, to the best of my knowledge, true, correct, and complete.


Signature ▶

Date ▶


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**Questions To See if You May Be Able To Claim the EIC for 2010**


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 You **cannot** claim the EIC if you file either Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ (relating to foreign earned income) for 2010. You also **cannot** claim the EIC if you are a nonresident alien for any part of 2010 unless you are married to a U.S. citizen or resident, file a joint return, and elect to be taxed as a resident alien for all of 2010.


- 1** Do you expect to have a qualifying child? Read *Who Is a Qualifying Child?* that starts on page 1 before you answer this question. If the child is married, be sure you also read *Married child* on page 3.

- No.**  You may be able to claim the EIC but you **cannot** get advance EIC payments.
- Yes.** *Continue.*


 If the child meets the conditions to be a qualifying child of both you and another person, see *Qualifying child of more than one person* on page 3.

- 2** Do you expect your 2010 filing status to be married filing a separate return?


- Yes.**  You **cannot** claim the EIC.
- No.** *Continue.*

 If you expect to file a joint return for 2010, include your spouse's income when answering questions 3 and 4.

- 3** Do you expect that your 2010 earned income and AGI will each be less than: \$35,535 (\$40,545 if married filing jointly) if you expect to have one qualifying child; \$40,363 (\$45,373 if married filing jointly) if you expect to have two qualifying children; or \$43,352 (\$48,362 if married filing jointly) if you expect to have three or more qualifying children?

- No.**  You **cannot** claim the EIC.
- Yes.** *Continue.* But remember, you **cannot** get advance EIC payments if you expect your 2010 earned income or AGI will be \$35,535 or more (\$40,545 or more if married filing jointly).

- 4** Do you expect that your 2010 investment income will be more than \$3,100? For most people, investment income is the total of their taxable interest, ordinary dividends, capital gain distributions, and tax-exempt interest. However, if you plan to file a 2010 Form 1040, see the 2009 Form 1040 instructions to figure your investment income.

- Yes.**  You **cannot** claim the EIC.
- No.** *Continue.*

- 5** Do you expect that you, or your spouse if filing a joint return, will be a qualifying child of another person for 2010?

- Yes.** You **cannot** claim the EIC.
- No.** You may be able to claim the EIC.
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agency. A school includes a technical, trade, or mechanical school. It does not include an on-the-job training course, correspondence school, or Internet school.

**3.** The child lives with you in the United States for over half of 2010. But you do not have to meet this condition if (a) the child was born or died during the year and your home was this child's home for the entire time he or she was alive in 2010, or (b) the child is presumed by law enforcement authorities to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a family member and the child lived with you for over half of the part of the year before he or she was kidnapped. Also, temporary absences, such as for school, vacation, medical care, or detention in a juvenile facility, count as time the child lived with you. Members of the military on extended active duty outside the United States are considered to be living in the United States.

**4.** The child does not file a joint return for 2010 (or files a joint return for 2010 only as a claim for refund).

**Married child.** A child who is married at the end of 2010 is a qualifying child only if the child meets the four conditions just listed and:

1. You can claim him or her as your dependent, or
2. You are the custodial parent and would be able to claim the child as your dependent, but the noncustodial parent claims the child as a dependent because:
  - a. You signed Form 8332, Release/Revocation of Release of Claim to Exemption for Child by Custodial Parent, or a similar statement, agreeing not to claim the child for 2010, or
  - b. You have a pre-1985 divorce decree or separation agreement that allows the noncustodial parent to claim the child and he or she gives at least \$600 for the child's support in 2010.

Other rules may apply. See Pub. 501, Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information, for more information on children of divorced or separated parents.

**Qualifying child of more than one person.** Even if a child meets the conditions to be a qualifying child of more than one person, only one person can treat that child as a qualifying child for 2010 and take, if otherwise eligible, all of the following tax benefits using that child: the child's dependency exemption, the child tax credit, head of household filing status, the credit for child and dependent care expenses, the exclusion for dependent care benefits, and the EIC. No other person can take any of these six tax benefits unless he or she has a different qualifying child. To determine which person can treat the child as a qualifying child, the following rules apply.

- If only one of the persons is the child's parent, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the parent.
- If the parents do not file a joint return together but both parents claim the child as a qualifying child, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent with whom the child lives for the longer period of time in 2010. If the child lives with each parent for the same amount of time, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent who has the higher AGI for 2010.
- If no parent can claim the child as a qualifying child, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the person who has the highest AGI for 2010.
- If a parent can claim the child as a qualifying child but no parent does so claim the child, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the person who has the highest AGI for 2010, but only if that person's AGI is higher than the AGI of any of the child's parents who can claim the child.

Subject to the rules just described, you and the other person(s) may be able to choose which of you treats the child as a qualifying child. For example, if you, your 3-year-old child, and your mother all live together and your child's other parent does not live with you, you can treat your child as a qualifying child, or you can choose to let your mother do so if her AGI is higher than yours. For details, more examples, and a special rule for divorced or separated parents, see Pub. 596.



**Caution.** A qualifying child whom you use to claim the EIC must have a valid social security number unless he or she is born and dies in 2010.

## What if My Situation Changes?

If your situation changes after you give Form W-5 to your employer, you will probably need to file a new Form W-5. For example, you must file a new Form W-5 if any of the following applies for 2010.

- You no longer expect to have a qualifying child. Check "No" on line 1 of your new Form W-5.
- You no longer expect to be able to claim the EIC for 2010. Check "No" on line 1 of your new Form W-5.
- You no longer want advance payments. Check "No" on line 1 of your new Form W-5.
- Your spouse files Form W-5 with his or her employer. Check "Yes" on line 3 of your new Form W-5.

**Note.** If you get advance EIC payments and find you are not eligible for the EIC, you must pay back these payments when you file your 2010 federal income tax return.

## Additional Information

### How To Claim the EIC

If you are eligible, claim the EIC on your 2010 tax return. See your 2010 tax return instruction booklet.

### Additional Credit

You may be able to claim a larger credit when you file your 2010 Form 1040 or Form 1040A because your employer cannot give you more than \$1,830 throughout the year with your pay. You may also be able to claim a larger credit if you have more than one qualifying child. But you must file your 2010 tax return to claim any additional credit.

**Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.** We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Internal Revenue Code sections 3507 and 6109 and their regulations require you to provide the information requested on Form W-5 and to give it to your employer if you want advance payment of the EIC. As provided by law, we may give the information to the Department of Justice and other federal agencies. In addition, we may give it to cities, states, and the District of Columbia so they may carry out their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. Failure to provide the requested information may prevent your employer from processing this form; providing false information may subject you to penalties.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For the estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.