

How Much Money Could New Yorkers Receive From the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) puts money back into the pockets of those who need it most and who are most likely to spend it immediately, thereby providing a boost to the economy. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most underused tax credits available despite the outreach efforts of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). While prohibiting tax fraud is a noble goal, the IRS' announcement that it will now be requiring a higher level of proof to claim the EITC than for other tax credits is a step in the wrong direction for thousands of New Yorkers. Based on data from the 2000 tax year, over 140,000 people from Upstate New York who were eligible for the credit did not claim it, meaning they missed out on over \$231 million in tax refunds. The following report shows how many people in each county claimed the tax credit in 2000 and how many people were eligible yet did not apply.

***The Capital Region:** In 2000, there were over 358,000 EITC claimants in the Capital Region. Unfortunately, over 17,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$27.5 million or over \$1,500 each.*

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Albany	113,706	\$1,546	5,313	\$8.2 million
Rensselaer	54,871	\$1,550	2,682	\$4.2 million
Schenectady	49,738	\$1,571	2,348	\$3.7 million
Saratoga	72,534	\$1,489	2,653	\$3.9 million
Fulton	18,143	\$1,612	1,358	\$2.2 million
Montgomery	18,396	\$1,616	1,204	\$2 million
Schoharie	10,023	\$1,581	654	\$1.1 million
Washington	21,240	\$1,562	1,402	\$2.2 million
Capital Region	358,651	\$1,561	17,614	\$27.5 million

Central New York: In 2000, there were over 324,000 ETIC claimants in Central New York. Unfortunately, over 18,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$29.4 million or about \$1,600 each.

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Oneida	80,570	\$1,599	4,781	\$7.6 million
Oswego	40,863	\$1,609	2,623	\$4.2 million
Madison	25,606	\$1,536	1,465	\$2.3 million
Cortland	15,116	\$1,558	1,005	\$1.6 million
Onondaga	162,270	\$1,599	8,560	\$13.7 million
Central New York	324,425	\$1,595	18,434	\$29.4 million

The Finger Lakes: In 2000, there were almost 442,000 ETIC claimants in the Finger Lakes. Unfortunately, over 22,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$36.3 million or about \$1,600 each.

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Cayuga	26,497	\$1,604	1,676	\$2.7 million
Seneca	10,454	\$1,572	638	\$1 million
Yates	7,405	\$1,538	535	\$822,000
Ontario	36,735	\$1,547	1,659	\$2.6 million
Wayne	33,580	\$1,609	1,737	\$2.8 million
Monroe	273,859	\$1,627	13,748	\$22.4 million
Livingston	20,098	\$1,508	988	\$1.5 million
Schuyler	6,198	\$1,546	438	\$677,000
Tompkins	27,038	\$1,419	1,294	\$1.8 million
Finger Lakes	441,864	\$1,598	22,713	\$36.3 million

The Hudson Valley: In 2000, there were over 737,000 ETIC claimants in the Hudson Valley. Unfortunately, over 32,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$51.4 million or about \$1,600 each.

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Westchester	294,771	\$1,566	12,336	\$19.3 million
Rockland	92,776	\$1,738	3,704	\$6.4 million
Putnam	30,947	\$1,276	619	\$789,000
Dutchess	94,804	\$1,496	3,467	\$5.2 million
Ulster	59,941	\$1,493	3,290	\$4.9 million
Sullivan	21,512	\$1,659	1,725	\$2.9 million
Orange	107,946	\$1,699	5,187	\$8.8 million
Greene	14,863	\$1,498	898	\$1.3 million
Columbia	19,792	\$1,517	1,159	\$1.8 million
Hudson Valley	737,352	\$1,587	32,385	\$51.4 million

The North Country: In 2000, there were over 175,000 ETIC claimants in the North Country. Unfortunately, almost 12,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$18.6 million or about \$1,600 each.

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Warren	23,198	\$1,538	1,358	\$2.1 million
Essex	12,357	\$1,583	758	\$1.2 million
Clinton	25,906	\$1,573	1,537	\$2.4 million
Franklin	15,586	\$1,607	1,220	\$2 million
Hamilton	3,375	\$1,414	198	\$280,000
St Lawrence	31,585	\$1,606	2,383	\$3.8 million
Herkimer	18,965	\$1,662	1,231	\$2 million
Lewis	10,666	\$1,563	820	\$1.3 million

Jefferson	33,562	\$1,563	2,243	\$3.5 million
North Country	175,200	\$1,583	11,748	\$18.6 million

***The Southern Tier:** In 2000, there were over 217,000 ETIC claimants in the Southern Tier. Unfortunately, almost 14,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$21.7 million or about \$1,600 each.*

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Delaware	12,717	\$1,553	950	\$1.5 million
Otsego	20,033	\$1,591	1,343	\$2.1 million
Chenango	16,682	\$1,624	1,228	\$2 million
Broome	72,203	\$1,532	3,991	\$6.1 million
Tioga	17,402	\$1,535	1,046	\$1.6 million
Chemung	30,857	\$1,579	1,933	\$3.1 million
Steuben	32,629	\$1,584	2,183	\$3.5 million
Allegany	14,767	\$1,615	1,120	\$1.8 million
Southern Tier	217,290	\$1,573	13,794	\$21.7 million

***Western New York:** In 2000, there were over 533,000 ETIC claimants in Western New York. Unfortunately, over 29,000 people in the region who were eligible for the tax credit did not apply for it, meaning they missed out on \$46.2 million or about \$1,600 each.*

County	EITC Claimants	Average Federal Credit	Potential EITC Claimants	Value of Unclaimed Credits
Orleans	14,074	\$1,622	888	\$1.4 million
Genesee	21,644	\$1,494	1,066	\$1.6 million
Wyoming	13,383	1,506	702	\$1.1 million
Erie	333,800	\$1,591	17,412	\$27.7 million
Niagara	80,613	\$1,562	4,199	\$6.6 million

Cattaraugus	27,611	\$1,614	1,924	\$3.1 million
Chautauqua	42,141	\$1,588	2,965	\$4.7 million
Western New York	533,266	\$1,585	29,156	\$46.2 million