


How Will the 2004 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Affect Your Eligibility for Other Benefits in New York City?

As you may know, different benefit programs allow you to have different amounts of resources. Resources or assets can be money in a savings or checking account or money in a retirement account. If you are receiving the year-end EITC, before your next re-certification for Welfare, Food Stamps, Public Housing, Section 8 or Medicaid, here are some things you need to know to continue receiving assistance.

For all programs you will have to bring a copy of your tax return to your next re-certification meeting to prove that you received the EITC.

Welfare (Cash/Public Assistance)	The EITC (monthly or at the end of the year) does not count as a resource for public assistance. Chapter 18 of the NYS Temporary Assistance Source Book http://www.otda.state.ny.us/otda/ta/07oct03/TASB.pdf
Food Stamps	The state and federal EITC do not count as a resource as long as they are "identifiable" (bring a copy of your tax returns.) Source: Family Independence Administration, Policy Directive #03-08-ELI (February 2003)
Public Housing/ Section 8	The EITC does not count as income when determining initial income eligibility, and it is not counted for purposes of determining tenant rent payments. If the EITC is deposited into an interest bearing account (for example: savings account) this will result in an increase in your income from assets, and may therefore affect your rent or eligibility if you have more than \$5,000 in assets. Source: Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook
Medicaid	If you are receiving Medicaid, the EITC does not count as a resource in the month received and the following month. Source: Medicaid Reference Guide, Page. 310 http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/medicaid/mrg/index.htm
Family Health Plus	Family Health Plus has no resource restrictions, so the EITC does not affect your eligibility. Source: http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/fhplus/who_can_join.htm
Child Health Plus A (Medicaid)	See Medicaid
Child Health Plus B (not Medicaid)	Child Health Plus B has no resource restrictions, so the EITC does not affect your eligibility. http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/who_is_eligible.htm

 Bring this flyer with a copy of your tax returns, to your next re-certification meeting. Make sure you let your caseworker know that you have received the Earned Income Tax Credit (not a tax refund).

Get your taxes done for FREE if you earn less than \$35,000 per year.
Call 311 and ask for the closest volunteer tax assistance center.