



New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
Legal Help Intake Line (833) 545-4357
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www.newmexicolegalaid.org/LITC

WHY SHOULD I FILE TAXES in 2025-2026?

(Updated 10/23/2025)

1. Income tax credits

- a. Earned income credit (EIC)(and related NM Working Families Tax Credit): The 2025 EIC can be worth up to **\$8,046** for a family with three children.
- b. Child tax credit: For tax year 2025, worth up to **\$1,700** refundable, and \$2,200 non-refundable, per child. There is a separate NM Child tax credit of up to **\$622** per child.
- c. NM Child Day Care Credit: This credit is worth up to \$480/child, or \$1,200 total.
- d. Other possible credits include (education-related): American Opportunity Tax Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit.
- e. Don't miss your refunds for 2022, 2023, and 2024! If you haven't filed yet for 2022, 2023, or 2024, you can still claim your refunds and credits if you file within three years of the statutory filing deadline. That means to claim a refund you must file **2022** tax returns by **April 15, 2026**.

2. NM Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate ("LICTR").

This rebate is worth up to **\$819 (2024)**, **\$790 for tax year 2023**, and **up to \$730** for tax years 2021 and 2022. This rebate is a refundable credit for most NM residents with modified gross incomes of up to \$36,000. For a single person with a very low income, this rebate can be worth up to **\$454** for tax year 2024 (\$246 if under age 65). (2025 TBD)

3. Who must file?

The law is: If your income is at or above a certain level, you are required by law to file tax returns. This includes a person with self-employment income of \$400 or more, or a single person with gross income at a level that changes each year (\$14,600 in 2024, \$15,750 in 2025). Other requirements may apply, so consult a qualified tax preparer.

4. Other Reasons to file

- a. Claim refund of your "excess withholdings."
- b. You can use your filed income tax return to prove your income to social services agencies, schools, and colleges.
- c. By filing, you create a record of earnings for future social security benefits.
- d. If you owe tax, but cannot pay, file anyway. There are separate IRS penalties for failure to file and failure to pay.

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HOW DO I FILE TAXES in 2025-2026?

5. Get Free or Low-Cost Tax Preparation Help from:

- a. Tax Help New Mexico: In Albuquerque area, beginning in mid-January, call **211** or visit www.TaxHelpNM.org to make an appointment. If no appointments are available, call back or check the website periodically, as appointments become available on a rolling basis. Walk-in help is also available at some locations.
- b. AARP Tax-Aide at **888-227-7669** or AARP.info/TaxAideLocator.
- c. Visit GetYourRefund.org (**Español** GetYourRefund.org/es) - For eligible low-income taxpayers; use this to get connected to IRS volunteers around the country to have your tax returns (2019-2022) prepared online or over the phone.
- d. Visit MyFreeTaxes.com (**Español** MyFreeTaxes.com/es) - For eligible low-income taxpayers; use this service to get connected with personal assistance from IRS certified volunteers if/when you need help.
- e. IRS.gov Free File (**Español** www.irs.gov/es/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free): The IRS also provides free tax filing options, by starting here: www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free (available starting January 12, 2024, for those with AGI of \$79,000 or less)
- c. Other In-person help: www.irs.gov/individuals/find-a-location-for-free-tax-prep
- g. Lutheran Family Services (for refugees, interpretation available) 505-933-7032
- h. If your taxes are too complex for free assistance, or you are unable to find a free tax preparer, consider hiring an Enrolled Agent: call NM Society of Enrolled Agents (NMSEA) at 505-877-1598, or <https://nmsea.net>, or <https://taxexperts.naea.org>.

6. Watch out for:

- a. Avoid “refund advances” or “refund anticipation loans” if possible. These are typically high-interest loans where you borrow against your tax refund.
- b. Avoid unqualified tax return preparers! Instead, use one of the free resources listed above.
- c. The *Albuquerque Tax Preparer Ordinance* may help protect your rights if your taxes are prepared in Albuquerque.

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