



Child Tax Credit

To help families during the COVID pandemic, the federal government changed the Child Tax Credit this year. Families can get monthly payments in 2021 for half their refund, and the other half of their refund sent as a lump-sum amount in 2022.

-Children ages 0 to 17 must have a Social Security number (SSN), and their parents must have an SSN or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

-Parents can get the maximum payment amounts if they had no income or they had an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) up to \$75,000 for single filers.

Age of Child in 2021	Monthly Payment July to December 2021	Lump-Sum Payment 2022 Tax Refund
0 to 5	Up to \$300 per child	Up to \$1,800 per child
6 to 17	Up to \$250 per child	Up to \$1,500 per child

To get these refund payments from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), parents must file a tax return or they can use the [IRS Child Tax Credit Non-Filer Sign-Up Tool](#), which can be found online at irs.gov, to sign up.

New York City offers free financial counseling and free tax preparation. The financial counselors can help parents open a safe and affordable bank account if they don't have one. The fastest way to get these Child Tax Credit payments is by direct deposit to a bank account. For more information, see the table below.

For a financial counseling appointment through the NYC Financial Empowerment Center	For tax information or an appointment with an IRS-certified volunteer preparer
CALL 311 and say "financial counseling"	CALL 311 and say "tax preparation"
VISIT nyc.gov/TalkMoney	VISIT nyc.gov/taxprep



Shared Parenting

Two shared parenting bills—in which the legal presumption for child custody would be 50/50 for parents with no history of violence or of being an unfit parent—are in the New York State Senate Children and Families Committee. [Senate Bill 2576](#) is sponsored by Sen. Pamela Helming of Geneva, NY. The bill proposes to amend the domestic relations law and family court act to create a statutory presumption of joint custody for minor children whose parents are no longer together, so both parents can continue to share the responsibilities of the children's upbringing. Since 2000, 40 states have considered shared parenting bills with a presumption or consideration of joint custody, and 6 states have passed legislation, including Oregon in 2019. Research shows children have better outcomes when they can maintain healthy relationships with both parents.



In The Know

Top 5 Policy Priorities

We surveyed our community-based organization and government agency partners to report their policy priorities for the child support program in 2022 with the new Mayor taking office in January. Supports for noncustodial parents, two-parent child rearing, and communication and access head the list. The top 5 are:

1. Connections to fatherhood programs
2. Connections to employment
3. Technology (client case information, communicating with OCSS, court access)
4. Co-parenting
5. Communication with parents