



IR-2015-44: IRS Has Refunds Totaling \$1 Billion for People Who Have Not Filed a 2011 Federal Income Tax Return

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News Essentials

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IRS Has Refunds Totaling \$1 Billion for People Who Have Not Filed a 2011 Federal Income Tax Return

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WASHINGTON — Federal income tax refunds totaling \$1 billion may be waiting for an estimated one million taxpayers who did not file a federal income tax return for 2011, the Internal Revenue Service announced today. To collect the money, these taxpayers must file a 2011 tax return with the IRS no later than Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

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"Time is running out for people who didn't file a 2011 federal income tax return to claim their refund," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "People could be missing out on a substantial refund, especially students or part-time workers. Some people may not have filed because they didn't make much money, but they may still be entitled to a refund."

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The IRS estimates half of the potential refunds for 2011 are more than \$698.

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In cases where a tax return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. For 2011 tax returns, the window closes on April 15, 2015. If no return is filed to claim a refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury.

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The law requires the tax return be properly addressed, mailed and postmarked by that date. There is no penalty for filing a late return that qualifies for a refund.

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The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2011 refund that their checks may be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2012 and 2013. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS, or their state tax agency, and may be used to offset unpaid child support or past due federal debts, such as student loans.

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By failing to file a tax return, people stand to lose more than just their refund of taxes withheld or paid during 2011. Many low-and-moderate income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). For 2011, the credit is worth as much as \$5,751. The EITC helps individuals and families whose incomes are below certain thresholds. The thresholds for 2011 were:

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\$43,998 (\$49,078 if married filing jointly) for those with three or more qualifying children,

- \$40,964 (\$46,044 if married filing jointly) for people with two qualifying children,
- \$36,052 (\$41,132 if married filing jointly) for those with one qualifying child, and
- \$13,660 (\$18,740 if married filing jointly) for people without qualifying children.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the IRS.gov Forms and Publications page, or by calling toll-free: 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676). Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for the years: 2011, 2012 or 2013 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer.

If these efforts are unsuccessful, taxpayers can get a free transcript showing information from these year-end documents by going to IRS.gov. Taxpayers can also file Form 4506-T to request a transcript of their tax return.

Individuals who did not file a 2011 return with a potential refund:

State or District	Estimated Number of Individuals	Median Potential Refund	Total Potential Refunds*
Alabama	19,900	\$693	\$17,794,000
Alaska	5,300	\$795	\$5,703,000
Arizona	27,700	\$618	\$23,649,000
Arkansas	10,600	\$678	\$9,371,000
California	103,700	\$627	\$92,209,000
Colorado	21,100	\$668	\$19,258,000
Connecticut	13,400	\$777	\$13,415,000
Delaware	4,800	\$726	\$4,579,000
District of Columbia	3,900	\$736	\$3,812,000
Florida	67,500	\$720	\$64,106,000
Georgia	36,200	\$628	\$31,250,000
Hawaii	7,100	\$742	\$6,842,000
Idaho	4,700	\$595	\$3,838,000
Illinois	44,000	\$763	\$43,177,000
Indiana	23,900	\$732	\$22,135,000
Iowa	11,100	\$719	\$10,128,000
Kansas	11,600	\$667	\$10,421,000
Kentucky	14,300	\$736	\$12,935,000
Louisiana	22,000	\$693	\$21,432,000
Maine	4,500	\$645	\$3,748,000
Maryland	25,000	\$694	\$23,628,000
Massachusetts	25,800	\$736	\$25,005,000
Michigan	36,200	\$721	\$34,254,000
Minnesota	16,500	\$632	\$14,148,000
Mississippi	11,100	\$629	\$9,625,000
Missouri	23,600	\$655	\$20,378,000
Montana	3,700	\$676	\$3,381,000
Nebraska	5,700	\$683	\$5,108,000
Nevada	13,300	\$702	\$12,185,000
New Hampshire	4,600	\$775	\$4,518,000
New Jersey	34,200	\$780	\$34,520,000
New Mexico	8,500	\$688	\$7,799,000
New York	63,400	\$765	\$62,809,000
North Carolina	31,700	\$595	\$26,248,000

North Dakota	2,600	\$761	\$2,591,000
Ohio	39,600	\$699	\$35,218,000
Oklahoma	19,300	\$707	\$17,988,000
Oregon	17,500	\$598	\$14,262,000
Pennsylvania	44,000	\$770	\$42,228,000
Rhode Island	3,400	\$748	\$3,270,000
South Carolina	13,200	\$609	\$11,160,000
South Dakota	2,600	\$732	\$2,480,000
Tennessee	20,700	\$690	\$18,630,000
Texas	101,800	\$743	\$103,164,000
Utah	8,000	\$610	\$6,944,000
Vermont	2,100	\$707	\$1,921,000
Virginia	32,100	\$685	\$29,647,000
Washington	28,400	\$750	\$28,705,000
West Virginia	5,100	\$784	\$5,023,000
Wisconsin	14,100	\$621	\$11,953,000
Wyoming	2,800	\$835	\$2,984,000
Totals	1,117,900	\$698	\$1,041,576,000

* Excluding the Earned Income Tax Credit and other credits.

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