

Report: \$28.6M for Fresno under tax credit proposal

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Up to \$28.6 million could be available to Fresno-area workers under proposals that could expand eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), according to a new report from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.

The EITC, a benefit for working people who have low to moderate income, is typically geared toward taxpayers with children. Proposals from the Obama administration and Congress aim to strengthen the credit for workers without children. Obama's proposal would benefit 14.1 million taxpayers, while Congressional proposals could reach more than 15 million, [according to Brookings](#).

Brookings also examined how the proposals would impact workers in the 100 largest metropolitan areas of the US.

In the Fresno area, an estimated 16,800 new EITC filers could be introduced by the Obama proposal, for an increase of 60 percent of eligible filers. An additional 27,900 filers could expect increased benefits.

The total increase in Fresno-area benefits is an estimated \$20.2 million under the Obama proposal, which could up the average childless worker benefit to \$620.

Under a Congressional proposal — called the Brown-Durbin/Neal legislation — 20,900 Fresno-area filers would be newly eligible for the EITC, an increase of 75 percent. The total increase in Fresno-area benefits is an estimated \$28.6 million, with an average childless worker benefit of \$740.

Each proposal expands the credit in slightly different ways, but according to the Brookings report, either would help provide a incentive to work and also help alleviate poverty.

"...it is clear that strengthening these two key components of the credits — broadening the age range over which workers qualify for the credit and increasing the maximum credit and phase in/out rates — would significantly increase the EITC's impact for millions of workers without qualifying children," concluded the report.