

# Goal: Getting Payments Right

**Program or Activity**  
Earned Income Tax Credit

**Reporting Period**  
Q4 2019

**Change from Previous FY (\$M)**

**\$984M**



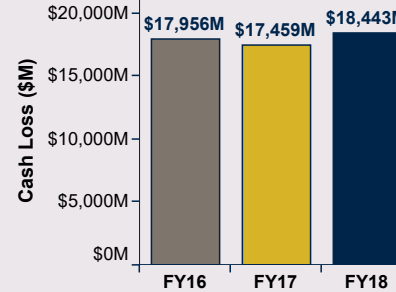
**TREASURY**

Earned Income Tax Credit

**Brief Program Description:**

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable tax credit for working families with low to moderate incomes. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may give you a refund. To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return

**Cash Loss by FY (\$M)**



Key Milestones		Status	ECD
1	Finalize estimated cash loss estimation methodology	On-Track	Sep-19
2	Identify estimated cash loss amount for FY 2018	On-Track	Sep-19
3	Identify true root causes of cash loss	On-Track	Sep-19
4	Develop mitigation strategies to get the payment right the first time	On-Track	Aug-19
5	Evaluate the ROI of the mitigation strategy	At Risk	Sep-19
6	Determine which strategies have the best ROI to prevent cash loss	At Risk	Sep-19

Quarterly Progress Goals			Status	Notes	ECD
1	Q4 2019	Reject electronic returns with missing or inconsistent information via math error.	On-Track	Approximately, 94% of EITC returns are filed electronically.	Sep-19
2	Q4 2019	Conduct EITC pre-refund audits.	On-Track	Over 300K audits are conducted annually and about 80% are pre-refund.	Sep-19

Recent Accomplishments			Date
1	Return Preparer Strategy Meeting: IRS held its annual meeting to evaluate the effectiveness of the FY 2019 preparer strategy, develop potential new solutions, and identify preparers that will be treated in FY 2020.		Jul-19
2	Refundable Credit Examination Work Plan Meeting: IRS held its annual work plan meeting to outline the number of EITC audits that will be conducted in FY 2020 based on existing resources and current legislative priorities.		Aug-19
3	Document Matching: IRS conducted its post-refund document matching process that compares income reported on tax returns with income reported by the employer.		Sep-19

FY18 Amt(\$)	Root Cause	Root Cause Description	Mitigation Strategy	Anticipated Impact of Mitigation
\$17,337M	Inability to authenticate eligibility: data needed does not exist	Approximately \$16,310.51 million, or 94 percent, of EITC IPs are from the inability to authenticate eligibility. This includes errors with the inability to authenticate qualifying child eligibility requirements, and taxpayer income misreporting.	IRS will continue examinations, math error notices, return preparer initiatives, etc. IRS will continue outreach/education programs, and work with Treasury on legislative proposals to improve compliance and reduce IP.	Reduce taxpayer error pre-filing and post-filing; educate taxpayers and paid preparers on the law and common filing errors.
\$1,107M	Program design or structural issues	Approximately \$1,041.10 million, or six percent, of improper payments are from program design limitations. Errors caused by program design occur when information needed to confirm payment accuracy is not available at the time the return is processed.	IRS will continue current efforts such as examinations, document matching, criminal investigation, etc. IRS will also continue outreach/education programs, and work with Treasury on legislative proposals to improve compliance and reduce IP.	Reduce taxpayer error pre-filing and post-filing; educate taxpayers and paid preparers on the law and common filing errors.

**Cash Loss** - Cash loss to the Government includes amounts that should not have been paid and in theory should/could be recovered.