

# Renter Credit Program

## Information for Renters

The Renter Credit is a refundable tax credit available to eligible Vermont residents who rented during the prior calendar year. Renters may be eligible even if they are not required to file a tax return.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Do I have to live in Vermont for the whole year?

You must live in Vermont for the entire year to get the credit, but you don't have to rent for all twelve months. The credit is available to anyone who rented for at least six months, and the six months don't need to be consecutive. If you rented for less than the entire year, your credit will be scaled based on the months you rented. For example, renting for nine months would entitle you to 75% of the full-year credit amount.

### What happens if I share my apartment with somebody?

With the Renter Credit, non-married adults who live together can each claim the credit independently, but the credit each receives will be scaled down by 50% to reflect that they are in a shared living situation. Non-married adults who live together do not have to share personal income information with others in their rental unit and do not have to split up or share the credit they receive.

### What are the income eligibility limits?

The limits are 50% of the county median income by family size, as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### You May File a Renter Credit Claim, if you:

- Were domiciled in Vermont for the entire calendar year
- Rented in Vermont for at least six months, and they need not be consecutive
- Can not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer
- Meet the income eligibility based on family size

For more information, visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit>.

If you have questions, contact the Individual Income Tax Section at [tax.individualincome@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.individualincome@vermont.gov) or call (802) 828-2865.

## Are there benefit “cliffs” in the Renter Credit program?

Some credits have “cliffs,” where your credit is drastically reduced if your income is just one dollar more. The Renter Credit program does not. Suppose you are under HUD’s extremely low-income limit (25% of the median income) based on your county and family size. In that case, you get the full credit amount, and there’s a smooth phaseout between that income level and the eligibility limit.

## How is my credit calculated?

The credit amount is 10% of the fair market rent for a rental unit of your family size in your county. For example, suppose you are two people living in Middlebury. In that case, you will get a credit based on a two-bedroom apartment in Addison County, which HUD calculates as \$14,300 per year for 2023, generating a credit of \$1,430.

## Can I estimate what my Renter Credit will be?

Yes, the Tax Department has created a [renter credit calculator \(https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/calculator-and-credit-amounts\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/calculator-and-credit-amounts) that lets you estimate the amount of your credit.

## Do I need any forms from my landlord?

No, you don’t need to ask your landlord for any forms. Your landlord submits unit and renter information directly to the Tax Department, containing all the necessary information for each building and unit they own or manage.

## What information do I need to provide to claim a Renter Credit?

You will need your School Property Account Number (SPAN), which you can find with the [SPAN Finder tool \(https://tax.vermont.gov/span-finder\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/span-finder) or by asking your landlord.




## What happens if I receive subsidies, including federal aid, to help pay the rent?

For renters who receive subsidies, your credit is based on actual rent paid. Your landlord submits the information to the Tax Department, and the Department calculates your credit for you. Housing aid received through federal or Vermont programs is considered a subsidy for this program.

## RESOURCES

- [Renter Credit Program Overview \(https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit)
- [School Property Account Number \(SPAN\) Search Tool \(tax.vermont.gov/span-finder\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/span-finder)
- [Renter Credit Calculator \(https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/calculator-and-credit-amounts\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/calculator-and-credit-amounts)
- [Renter Credit Income Eligibility Limits \(tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/income-eligibility-limits\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-credit/income-eligibility-limits)

### What You will Need for Tax Year 2023

-  Form RCC-146, Renter Credit Claim, file through myVTax or by paper form
-  Your School Property Account Number (SPAN)
-  File your claim no later than October 15, 2024