

Do I have to file taxes?

According to the Internal Revenue Service, every U.S. citizen is required to report all earned income and pay associated taxes. This includes money earned from odd jobs, even ones that are cash-only or considered “off the books.” If you work odd jobs – say a neighbor pays you for dog walking, tutoring or house cleaning – then you're still supposed to report that money as income to the IRS even if you're not getting a W-2 (the income-reporting tax form used for employees) or 1099 (the income-reporting tax form used for independent contractors).

In general, income earned from work is divided into two categories:

1. Income earned through employer (W-2 Income)
2. Income earned as contractor / Self-Employed (1099 or cash income)

1. Income Earned Through Employer (W-2 Income):

IRS Publication 501 gives details concerning the question of “How much money do you have to make to file taxes?” <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p501.pdf>

W-2 Income – Threshold for 2019

2019 Filing Requirements Chart for Most Taxpayers		
IF your filing status is...	AND at the end of 2017 you were...*	THEN file a return if your gross income was at least...**
Single	under 65	\$12,200
Single (Dependent)	Claimed as Dependent	\$ 12,200
Head of Household	under 65	\$18,360
Married, filing jointly	under 65 (both spouses)	\$25,700
Married, filing separately	any age	\$5

2. Income Earned as Contractor / Self-Employed (1099 or cash income):

If you work odd jobs for income or to supplement your income, you are expected to report that money as income if the income earned is over the income threshold set by the IRS. Currently the income threshold for income worked as a contractor or for odd jobs is \$400.

IRS Tax Filing Determination – Helpful tool to determine if you are required to file a tax return:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return>

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