1040TaxCredit.com — 2026 Tax Credit & Deduction Cheat Sheet

Finally, Tax Answers That Make Sense • Audited 2026 IRS Statutory Standards

1. 2026 Core Statutory Limits & Safe Harbors

Category	2026 Statutory Limit / Rule	Key Condition / Citation
Standard Deduction (Single / MFS)	$15,300	IRC Sec. 63 (2026 inflation-adjusted)
Standard Deduction (Head of Household)	$22,950	Unmarried with qualifying dependent
Standard Deduction (Married Filing Jointly)	$30,600	Includes Qualifying Surviving Spouse
Child Tax Credit (CTC) & ACTC	$2,000 / child ($1,700 refundable)	Phase-out starts $200,000 / $400,000 MFJ
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Up to $8,000 (3+ kids)	Investment income cap: $11,950
Standard Mileage Rate (Business)	H1: $0.725/mi | H2: $0.76/mi	Jan–Jun: 72.5¢; Jul–Dec: 76¢ (Ann. 2026-11) | Med/Mov H1/H2: $
HSA Contribution Limits	$4,400 Self / $8,800 Family	+$1,000 catch-up at age 55+
Section 179 Equipment Expensing	$1,220,000 max deduction	Immediate expensing for qualifying business gear
De Minimis Safe Harbor	$2,500 per item / invoice	Attach annual election statement under Reg. 1.263(a)-1(f)
Self-Employment (SE) Tax Base	15.3% on 92.35% net	SS wage base cap: $184,500; floor $400

2. 2026 Quarterly Estimated Tax Deadlines (Form 1040-ES)

Quarter	Income Period Covered	IRS Payment Due Date
Q1 2026	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2026	April 15, 2026
Q2 2026	Apr 1 – May 31, 2026	June 15, 2026
Q3 2026	Jun 1 – Aug 31, 2026	September 15, 2026
Q4 2026	Sep 1 – Dec 31, 2026	January 15, 2027

3. Year-End 2026 Deduction & Credit Checklist

[ ] **Separate Business & Personal Banking:** Route all 1099-NEC, rideshare, and creator payouts through a dedicated checking account.

[ ] **Lock In Split-Year Business Mileage Log:** Separate Jan 1–June 30 ($0.725/mi) and July 1–Dec 31 ($0.76/mi) odometer totals per IRS Announcement 2026-11.

[ ] **Apply $2,500 De Minimis Safe Harbor:** Expense cameras, laptops, mics, and studio gear under $2,500/item and attach the election statement.

[ ] **Place Section 179 Gear in Service Before Dec 31:** Equipment must be delivered, installed, and ready for use by December 31, 2026.

[ ] **Measure Exclusive Home Office Square Footage:** Confirm regular & exclusive business use for Simplified ($5/sq ft up to 300 sq ft) or Form 8829.

[ ] **Max Out HSA Before April 15, 2027:** Fund up to $4,400 (self) or $8,800 (family), plus $1,000 if age 55+.

[ ] **Compare Dependent Care FSA ($7,500) vs. CDCTC ($3k/$6k):** Check whether your bracket + FICA savings beats the 20%–35% IRC Sec. 21 credit.

[ ] **Verify Qualifying Child & ACTC Eligibility:** Confirm SSNs, under-17 residency tests, and $2,500 earned income threshold for the $1,700/child ACTC.

[ ] **Reconcile 1099-K / 1099-NEC Forms:** Match gross receipts against platform statements and deduct merchant fees/refunds.

[ ] **Check Safe Harbor Estimated Payments:** Pay at least 100% of prior-year tax (110% if AGI > $150,000) or 90% of 2026 tax to avoid penalties.

4. Free Interactive 2026 Calculators at 1040TaxCredit.com

Verify your exact numbers online using our audited 2026 calculators: Child Tax Credit & ACTC, 1099 Mileage & SE Tax, HSA Tax Savings, Marriage Tax Penalty, EITC Refund, True Net Hourly Rate, Family Cash Flow, Dependent Care FSA vs. Credit, Mileage vs. Actual Expenses, RMD, IRS Payment Plan, and Late Filing Penalty.

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