MORTGAGE INTEREST TAX REFORM

TAXPAYER PROFILES



MARRIED COUPLE UNDER 65 TWO CHILDREN UNDER 13

CURRENT LAW: Mortgage Interest Deduction

Homeowners who itemize can deduct the interest paid on mortgages on first and second homes up to a total of \$1 million, and the interest on up to an additional \$100,000 in home equity loans.

PROPOSED LAW:

20% Mortgage Interest Credit

Homeowners would receive a 20% non-refundable credit for interest on mortgages up to \$500,000. Interest on second homes and home equity loans would be eligible for credit under the \$500,000 cap.

How would reforming the mortgage interest deduction to a 20% non-refundable credit affect taxpayers?

Targeting mortgage interest tax breaks more toward middle class and lower income homeowners will provide a tax benefit where it is needed most and help the economy by giving most homeowners more money to spend.

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LOWER INCOME
INCOME \$45,000
MORTGAGE INTEREST PAID \$4,000
CURRENT LAW: Deduction
\$1,141 TAX REFUND
PROPOSED LAW: 20% Credit
\$1,141 TAX REFUND
\$0 NO CHANGE

MIDDLE INCOME INCOME
\$80,000 MORTGAGE INTEREST PAID \$8,000
CURRENT LAW: Deduction
\$4,289 TAXES OWED
PROPOSED LAW: 20% Credit
\$2,734 TAXES OWED \$1,555 SAVINGS

HIGHER INCOME
INCOME \$200,000
MORTGAGE INTEREST PAID \$20,000
CURRENT LAW: Deduction
\$32,374 TAXES OWED
PROPOSED LAW: 20% Credit
\$31,818 TAXES OWED
\$556 SAVINGS

Calculations by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Based on 2011 Form 1040 (U.S. Individual Income Tax Return).



