

.08 Determining Quarter Earnings

Quarters of coverage may be blank on the QCIN response. When the quarters are reflected in the current year or preceding years field, they are known as [Lag Quarters](#).

For 1978 and later, credits are based solely on the total yearly amount of earnings. Obtain the number of creditable Quarters of Coverage by dividing the noncitizen's total earned income by the amount for the year. (See [Quarterly Earnings Table](#))

All types of earnings follow this rule. The amount of earnings needed to earn a credit increases and is different each year.

The noncitizen's CURRENT quarter might be included in the 40 quarter computation. When this occurs, DO NOT use the quarter when the noncitizen received any [Federal Means Tested Benefits\(g\)](#) during any month in the quarter. (See Example [Current Quarter Earnings](#))

NOTE Do not consider a participant to be receiving benefits for a program (CA or NA) for any months in which they are coded DI on SEPA for that program.

Use the current year amount as the divisor to determine the number of quarters available. DO NOT use future quarters within the year.

For Quarters of Coverage from 1977 and Earlier, the following apply:

- One credit is earned for each quarter in which a participant was paid \$50 or more in wages (including agricultural wages for 1951 - 1954).
- One credit was earned for each \$100 (limit to a maximum of four to be counted toward the 40 quarter requirement) for agricultural wages paid during the year for the years 1955 - 1977.
- Four credits are earned for each taxable year in which a participant's net earnings from self-employment were \$400 or more.