

Do I qualify for Free Income Tax Assistance?

Taxes have become so complicated that many of us are unable to do them ourselves. But free tax help is available for many of us, and we may not even know about it. The IRS partners with organizations around the country to provide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs. The programs enlist VITA volunteers in communities around the country, and train them to help taxpayers with tax counseling and income tax preparation services.

You may qualify for the free income tax assistance if you:

- Earn a low or moderate income, usually less than \$42,000 a year;
- Are 60 years of age or older; or
- Have a family member in the military.

VITA volunteers can help identify tax benefits that may be available to you, and will help you file the correct forms with the Internal Revenue Service to receive the credits. For example, you may be eligible for a refundable tax credit such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which provides cash assistance for low and moderate income Americans, or the Child Tax Credit or Credit for the Elderly.

To see if you qualify, contact the VITA location nearest you. The Tax Section of the American Bar Association includes a list of sites on its website, or you can call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to find the VITA center nearest you. This year, nearly 12,000 VITA sites are set up around the country, in community and neighborhood centers, such as libraries, schools and shopping malls.

Items you need to bring to the VITA/TCE Sites to have your tax returns prepared

- **Proof of identification**
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- **Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return**
- Current year's tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns *if available*
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- **Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number** (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.