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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, March 10, 2020 CONTACT: Mike Dropka 312-814-8449 Michael.Dropka@illinois.gov

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Free Tax Preparation Assistance Available Throughout Illinois

Springfield, IL – Low-to-moderate income families and senior citizens needing assistance filing their 2019 income taxes can receive free help through several trusted programs across the State of Illinois. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and AARP Tax-Aide programs are providing free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in over 300 locations statewide.

"Taxes are due in one month. If a qualified taxpayer needs help filing their return, there is free assistance available for them," said David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. "In locations all across the state, working-families or elderly taxpayers can meet with a certified volunteer who will help them file their state and federal returns accurately and on time. By increasing participation and compliance, we build trust in our tax system and ensure every taxpayer receives any refund they are due."

The <u>IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly</u> programs offer free tax help for individuals making \$56,000 or less, persons with disabilities, taxpayers who speak limited English and individuals 60 years of age or older.

<u>AARP's Foundation Tax-Aide</u> program focuses on helping low-to-moderate income individuals, with special attention to those over 50 years of age. An AARP membership is not required.

"I want to thank the Illinois Department of Revenue, Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), and AARP Tax-Aide programs for providing this much needed service to older adults across the state that just need help," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "I encourage everyone to spread the word to those that need assistance with filing their 2019 income taxes, all of which can be guite frankly overwhelming and confusing."

Taxpayers can <u>search for a free tax assistance provider</u> closest to them by visiting the Illinois Department of Revenue's website <u>tax.illinois.gov</u>.

Get the latest news and updates from the Illinois Department of Revenue by following the department on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

Get the latest news and updates from the Illinois Department on Aging by following the department on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, or by calling the Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966.

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Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Planning for tomorrow. www.illinois.gov/aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966; 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)