



For Immediate Release
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Media Contact: Maura Kownacki
Phone: 312-814-1777

Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance Available

CHICAGO - Low-to-moderate income families and older adults needing assistance filing their 2022 income taxes can receive free help through several trusted programs across Illinois.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), American Association of Retired Persons' (AARP) Foundation Tax-Aide Program, and the Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program, provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in select locations statewide.

"It is important for Illinois taxpayers to know they can receive help from qualified volunteers certified by the IRS at various locations statewide," said **Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris**. "These individuals are ready and willing to assist taxpayers in filing their state and federal tax returns accurately and on time by the April 18 deadline."

How taxpayer assistance is provided and when services are available varies by region, based upon volunteer capacity.

"Even modest tax refunds can be a significant boost to older adults' household budgets," said **Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta**. "By seeking free tax prep assistance from a trusted local program, you have the best likelihood of getting your full refund and of getting your taxes done on time, correctly and hassle-free."

The [IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals needing assistance in preparing their own tax returns. People making \$60,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers can take advantage of this service. In addition, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations across the country.

The [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program](#) provides free tax assistance, with a special focus on taxpayers over the age of 50 or who have low-to-moderate income. Availability is determined at the local or community level. AARP membership is not required to receive assistance.

In Chicagoland, the [Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program](#) (TAP) provides free basic tax return preparation for families earning up to \$60,000 and individuals earning up to \$32,000 annually. IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers assist in filing federal and state returns.

Taxpayers can search for a free tax assistance provider closest to them by visiting IDOR's website tax.illinois.gov. Individuals with questions should contact IDOR's Taxpayer Assistance Division at 800-732-8866.

Taxpayers may also visit any of IDOR's offices located in Chicago, Des Plaines, Fairview Heights, Marion, Rockford, and Springfield to receive assistance. Staff at these locations can help with any Illinois state income tax filing inquiries and are available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.