

Get Right With Your Taxes

Tax Benefits and Credits



LIFECYCLE SERIES

Free Help Filing Your Return

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

IRS-certified volunteers receive training to prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. To locate a VITA site near you, go to www.irs.gov and search: VITA, or call **1-800-906-9887**.

Tax-Aide

Trained and certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteers help people of low-to-middle income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call **1-888-227-7669** or use the Tax-Aide Locator at www.aarp.org.

Free File

It's fast, safe and free. Let Free File do the hard work for you with brand-name software or online Fillable Forms. You can prepare and e-file your federal return for free. Participating software companies make their products available through the IRS. Some also support state tax returns. Go to www.irs.gov/freefile to get started.

Tax Credits

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Find out if you are eligible for this valuable credit by using the EITC Assistant at www.irs.gov search: *EITC*. Amounts received for work performed while an inmate in a penal institution, in a work release program or while in a halfway house are not earned income when figuring this credit.

Other benefits

Information about how to learn more about the child tax credit and other credits, benefits and free services can be found in [Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax \(For Individuals\)](#).

Taxes and Jobs

If you work for someone else, you can use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator on www.irs.gov to help you complete Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate. That way, you'll avoid having too much or too little tax withheld from your pay.

If you are interested in starting your own business, the IRS has many informative videos available at www.irsvideos.gov. Select the *Small Business Taxes: The Virtual Workshop* on the Small Businesses tab.

Self-employed/independent contractors generally are required to file a tax return every year and pay estimated taxes. See [Publication 334, Tax Guide For Small Business \(For Individuals Who Use Schedule C or C-EZ\)](#) and [Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax](#), for more information.

Tax Avoidance Schemes

Participating in an illegal scheme to avoid paying taxes can result in imprisonment, fines, and the repayment of taxes owed plus penalties and interest. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Find more information at www.irs.gov search: *tax scams*.

What to do if You Owe Taxes

You should file all tax returns that are due, regardless of whether or not you can pay in full with your return. Depending on your circumstances, you may qualify for a payment plan. In many cases, filing late can result in avoidable penalties, costing you more money. If you haven't filed, go to www.irs.gov for more information about payment options or to set up a payment arrangement. You can also visit your nearest Taxpayer Assistance Center or call the IRS toll-free at **1-800-829-1040**.

Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITC)

Available to eligible low income or English as a second language (ESL) taxpayers seeking assistance with IRS audits, appeals and collection disputes including representation before the IRS. For specific requirements and locations in your state go to www.irs.gov search: *LITC assistance*.

Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS)

Your voice at the IRS. Call TAS if you're having economic problems, if you need help resolving an IRS problem, or you believe an IRS system or procedure isn't working as it should. Call toll-free at **1-877-777-4778** or go to www.TaxpayerAdvocate.irs.gov.

Prisoner Re-entry Education Program

Mission

The mission of the prisoner re-entry education program is to educate and inform prisoners preparing for release from a correctional facility about their tax responsibilities.

Benefits

- **Refunds** – you have up to three years to file a claim for a refund
- **Tax Credits** – even if you don't make enough money to pay taxes, you might still qualify for a refund
- **Proof of Income** – filing your tax return is important if you want to rent a house or apartment or apply for a loan
- **Social Security** – to qualify for benefits, Social Security needs a record of your work history
- **Peace of Mind** – file your taxes and have one less thing to worry about

Important Note about Health Insurance Coverage. You are exempt from the requirement to have health insurance coverage for any month that includes a day that you are in jail or prison after the disposition of charges. In general, you are also exempt from the requirement for the first two full months after your release. While incarcerated you are not eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan and therefore may not claim the premium tax credit for your own coverage. Leaving incarceration may open the door for a Health Insurance Marketplace special enrollment period that permits health care plan enrollment when it's not open season. Find out more about the tax-related provisions of the health care law at IRS.gov/aca.

Additional Information

All of the forms and publications mentioned in the "Get Right With Your Taxes", Publication 4931(DVD) video and this brochure can be found on the Internal Revenue Service website: www.irs.gov or by calling **1-800-829-3676 (1-800-TAXFORM)**.

To order tax return transcripts or account transcripts, go to www.irs.gov and click on the "Get Your Tax Record" tool. To order by phone, call **1-800-908-9946** and follow the prompts in the recorded message.

To get copies of prior year tax returns, or to get copies of Forms W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, or 1099 series to assist you in filing a prior year return, call **1-800-829-1040**.

For additional questions about your account or responsibilities call **1-800-829-1040**.

Helpful Non-IRS Information

To find out if your refund will be offset due to outstanding debts, such as defaulted student loans or past-due child support contact the Treasury Offset Program Call Center: **1-800-304-3107**.

Find out which government benefits you may be eligible to receive: www.benefits.gov.