

Free Options to File Your 2020 Taxes

If you worked in 2020, you may be eligible for up to \$6,660 at tax time from the Earned Income Tax Credit.

VITA Tax Help

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, you will receive personal assistance with an IRS certified tax volunteer at a VITA preparation site.

Appointment Information - It is required to schedule an appointment for this assistance. Please utilize the United Way referral number 211 or 800-543-7709 or schedule online at vitataxprep.as.me beginning Jan. 18, 2021. Appointments occur Feb. 1 – April 15, 2021.

Due to COVID-related issues, we will use a “drop off” method this year. Please pick up and complete the required intake forms and organize your documents before arriving at your scheduled “drop off” time.

Location Information

VITA sites in this area include:

125 Live

Hawthorne Education Center

The Salvation Army

Stewartville Center for Active Adults

Mantorville Senior Center

Information Needed - See page 2 for information needed by your VITA volunteer to assist with your tax preparation and restrictions on the type of taxpayers VITA can help.

Filing taxes online

There are no cost options to file your own taxes if qualified. Go to myfreetaxes.com and complete both federal and state returns for free. Phone and chat help are available on their website.

Other online options:

Both the IRS and the MN Department of Revenue provide options for completing fillable forms online beginning in mid-January, 2021.

For federal taxes, go to irs.gov and search for free filing options. For state taxes, to go www.revenue.state.mn.us/file-income-tax-return



Taxpayers VITA Can Assist and Information Checklist

Taxpayers VITA can assist - The VITA program assists taxpayers with income of \$69,000 or less. Additionally, VITA volunteers are not trained to handle more complicated returns. A partial list of such returns that we cannot assist include businesses with employees, businesses with total expenses greater than \$35,000 or operating at a loss or taxpayers with income from states other than MN, IA, WI or states with no income tax (e.g. SD).

Information Needed for a VITA appointment

1. Personal Information

- o Picture ID
- o **Birthdate** for all persons listed on the tax return
- o **Social Security card** or **Individual Tax Identification Number** (ITIN) card or letter for all persons listed on the tax return
- o **Direct deposit information:** voided check or routing and account number

2. Income & Public Benefit Statements

- o W-2s for each job
- o All **1099** forms received
- o **Year-end income** for MFIP, SSI, MSA, GA, veterans' benefits, workers' compensation

3. Education & Child Care Credits

- o Record of **educational expenses** for children in grades K-12 (including school supplies, tutoring, art classes)
- o **Tuition expenses** for university, college or technical school
- o **Interest statement** for student loans
- o **Child care expenses:** provider name, address, Tax ID or Social Security number

4. Property Taxes

- o **Homeowners:** mortgage interest & real estate taxes paid in 2020 & Statement of Property Tax Payable in 2021 mailed by county in March
- o **Renters:** Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP)

5. Additional Documents

- o Previous year's **tax return**
- o Verification of **health insurance** for each person listed on return if purchased through MNsure
- o Record of charitable **donations**