

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (527 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to learn about assistance for people with disabilities.

IRS offers assistance for people with disabilities

If you are unable to complete your tax return because of a disability, you may be able to obtain assistance from the [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly Programs](#) sponsored by IRS.

The VITA program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, people with disabilities, the elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free, basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, TCE program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

Telephone assistance for the deaf and hard of hearing is available for individuals with TTY equipment. The toll-free number for this service is 800-829-4059, and the hours of operation are M-F, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (caller's local time); Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and who do not have this equipment may be able to obtain access through the federal or state relay services.

Visit the [IRS.gov Accessibility](#) page for a current list of accessible tax products available by download. If you prefer hardcopy Braille or large print, please call the IRS at 800-829-3676.

Tax Benefits

If you have a disability, you may qualify for certain tax deductions, income exclusions and credits. More detailed information may be found in the IRS publications referred to below.

- **Standard Deduction** - If you are legally blind, you may be entitled to a [higher standard deduction](#) on your tax return.
- **Gross Income** - Certain [disability-related payments](#) may be excluded from gross income.
- **Impairment-Related Work Expenses** - If you are an employee and have a physical or mental disability that functionally limits your employment, you may wish to read [Publication 529, Miscellaneous Deductions](#).
- **Credit for the Elderly or Disabled** – For more information, refer to [Publication 524, Credit for the Elderly or Disabled](#).
- **Medical Expenses** – Learn more by reading [Publication 502, Medical and Dental Expenses](#).
- **Earned Income Tax Credit** is a [tax credit for certain people who work and have low earned income](#).

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to helpful information on Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities

- [Accessible IRS Tax Forms and Publications](#)
- [More Information for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Disability Related Products](#)
- [Retirement Plan Payments for Accident, Health and Disability Insurance](#)
- [Special Tax Considerations for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Topic 102](#) – Tax Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities and the Hearing Impaired
- [Publication 907](#) - Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities
- [Schedule R](#) - Credit for the Elderly or Disabled ([Instructions](#))
- [Form 5884](#) - Work Opportunity Credit
- [Form 8826](#) - Disabled Access Credit

YouTube

[ASL: All About IRS.gov \(Captions & Audio\) - YouTube](#)