### Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (612 word count)

Customize and post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles, to assist your customers in satisfying their tax filing liabilities.

## Resources are available to get help after the filing season

The regular tax filing season ended April 15 and, while many of you have already had your tax return prepared and filed, there may be any number of reasons that you still need help with taxes. Fortunately, there are always multiple resources.

If you meet the requirement (generally, earning \$52,000 or less), you can get your tax return completed at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites at no cost. In addition to providing traditional tax preparation services, some of these sites offer access to computer software, free of charge, if you are interested in preparing your return on your own or with a little help from an IRS-certified volunteer. To find a VITA site near you, use the VITA Locator Tool located on IRS.gov.

Here are some other useful services that are available on IRS.gov:

- 1. **IRS Free File**—it's fast, it's safe, it's free. Everyone can use <u>IRS Free File</u> to e-file their federal taxes for free. If your income was \$58,000 or less, you can use free brand-name software. If you made more than \$58,000 and are comfortable preparing your own tax return, use Free File Fillable Forms to e-file. This program uses the electronic versions of paper IRS forms. IRS Free File is available through Oct. 15 only through IRS.gov.
- 2. Where's My Refund? Check the status of your 2013 refund with the Where's My Refund? tool on IRS.gov or download the IRS2Go phone app and select the Refund Status option. The IRS issues more than 9 out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. The tool includes a tracker that displays the progress of your return in three stages while it is processed. Once IRS approves your refund, "Where's My Refund?" will give a date to expect your refund.
- 3. **Make Payments Electronically.** The new web-based system <u>IRS Direct Pay</u> on IRS.gov lets you pay your tax bills or make estimated tax payments directly from checking or savings accounts without any fees or pre-registration. From the "Pay Your Tax Bill" icon at the top of the IRS home page, you can access IRS Direct Pay, which walks you through five simple steps.
- 4. **Request a Payment Agreement.** Paying all your taxes on time avoids penalties and interest. However, if you cannot pay your taxes in full, you may be eligible to use the <u>Online Payment Agreement Application</u> to request an installment agreement.
- 5. **Figure the Right Withholding.** The IRS <u>Withholding Calculator</u> will help ensure you don't have too much or too little income tax withheld from your pay.
- 6. **Get 24/7 Access to tax information.** Whether you do your taxes during the day or burn the midnight oil, IRS.gov has the tax forms and answers you need when you need them. The <a href="Interactive Tax Assistant">Interactive Tax Assistant</a> is accessible all day, every day and is a helpful tool that answers

many of your tax law questions. Some information, including select tax forms and publications, is available in Spanish.

- 7. **Use the EITC Assistant.** The Earned Income Tax Credit is a tax credit for working people who earned less than \$51,567 in 2013. The credit can be worth as much as \$6,044. Check your eligibility using the <u>EITC Assistant tool</u>.
- 8. **Get Tax Forms and Publications.** You can view and download <u>tax forms and publications</u> any time. It's the easiest way to get IRS forms and publications.
- Get the Latest Tax Law Changes. Learn about tax law changes that may affect your tax return. Special sections like <u>Tax Trails</u> can help you find answers to general questions about tax credits, taxable income and other tax topics. You can use the <u>IRS Tax Map</u> to search publications and instructions by topic or keyword.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to helpful information on IRS.gov.

# Sample Tweets:

#### Self Help at VITA

Eligible taxpayers can do their federal #taxes for free with #Free File software. Find out more. http://go.usa.gov/rP6B #tax #IRS

#### **Direct Depost**

Get your #taxrefundfaster and Direct Deposit your money into 1, 2 or 3 accounts <a href="http://go.usa.gov/ZPfJ">http://go.usa.gov/ZPfJ</a>

#### Withholding Calculator

Use #IRS calculator http://go.usa.gov/Eja to adjust your #tax\_withholding

Do you need to change your Federal tax withholding for next year? Use the #IRS Withholding Calculator http://go.usa.gov/Eja

#### **Direct Pay**

Check out IRS #Direct\_Pay <a href="http://go.usa.gov/8Xem">http://go.usa.gov/8Xem</a>...Pay your federal tax securely in just 5 easy steps for free.

Is your federal tax payment due today? Use #IRS\_Direct\_Pay <a href="http://go.usa.gov/8Xem">http://go.usa.gov/8Xem</a> and pay online for free.

#### IRS YouTube Videos:

Free File - English

Online Payment Agreement - English | Spanish | ASL

IRS2GO - English

#### **IRS Podcasts:**

Online Payment Agreement – English | Spanish