Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (754 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.

The tax help you need is at your finger tips

When you're looking for tax information, you want to find it as quickly and easily as possible. That's why the IRS redesigned its website to make it easier to use. Here are 10 reasons to visit IRS.gov:

- Get 24/7 access 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. It's accessible all day, every day. The <u>Interactive Tax Assistant</u> is a helpful tool that will answer many of your tax law questions. Several tax forms, publications and information are also available in Spanish.
- 2. **Use Free File** Anyone can prepare and e-file their taxes for free with <u>IRS Free File</u>. Offered exclusively at IRS.gov, Free File's brand name software or fillable forms do the work for you. If you made \$60,000 or less, you qualify to use free tax software. If your income is more than \$60,000 or you feel comfortable preparing your own tax return, use Free File Fillable Forms. This option provides the electronic versions of IRS paper forms.
- 3. **Try IRS e-file** Whether you do your own taxes or hire a preparer, <u>IRS e-file</u> is the safest, easiest and most popular way to file a complete and accurate tax return. Since 1990, taxpayers have e-filed more than one billion returns. If you owe taxes, e-file gives you options to file early and pay by the tax deadline. If you are due a refund, you should receive it in less than 21 days.
- 4. Check your refund status You can track your refund using the enhanced Where's My Refund? tool. It's quick, easy and secure. You can start checking on the status of your refund within 24 hours after the IRS received your e-filed return. You can check your refund status four weeks after you mail a paper return. 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 you a date to expect your refund.
- 5. Make payments electronically Electronic options to <u>make a payment</u> provide a convenient, safe and secure way to pay taxes. IRS Direct Pay offers the fastest and easiest way to pay the taxes you owe. Available at <u>IRS.gov/directpay</u>, this free online tool allows individuals to securely pay their income tax directly from checking or savings accounts without any fees or pre-registration. You can also authorize an electronic funds

withdrawal using a credit or debit card, or enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Electronic Federal Tax Payment System.

- 6. Use the EITC Assistant The <u>Earned Income Tax Credit</u> is a tax credit for working people who earned less than \$52,427 (married, filing jointly) in 2014. The credit can be worth as much as \$6,143 (with three or more qualifying children). Check your eligibility using the <u>EITC Assistant</u> tool. You may be among the millions of eligible workers who get the EITC this year.
- Get tax forms and publications You can view and download tax forms and publications any time. It's the easiest way to get <u>IRS forms and</u> publications.
- 8. **Figure the right withholding** The <u>IRS Withholding Calculator</u> will help to ensure you don't have too much or too little income tax withheld from your pay.
- 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.
- 10. **Get the latest tax law changes** Learn about tax law changes that may affect your tax return. Special sections of the website highlight changes that affect <u>individual</u> and <u>business</u> taxpayers.

The URL for the official IRS website is <u>www.irs.gov</u>. Don't be misled by websites that claim to be the IRS but end in .com, .net, or .org. Some thieves use phony websites to gain your personal and financial information, then steal your identity and your money.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are additional links to help taxpayers find information on IRS.gov.

IRS YouTube Videos:

- All About IRS.gov English | Spanish | ASL
- File Your 1040EZ Using Free File English | Spanish | ASL
- How to Get 1040 Forms English | Spanish | ASL
- Earned Income Tax Credit English