

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (434 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to let your customers know how they can use their tax refund to build assets.

Use Your Refund To Save

For many taxpayers, tax refunds create a unique opportunity to save money for future goals such as retirement, first-time home purchase or to start a business. Fortunately, there are numerous options available to help you achieve these and other financial goals, beginning with how you choose to receive your tax refund.

Direct Deposit is a gateway to asset building and a step towards increased financial security. It's faster, safer and more convenient than getting a check. You can avoid incurring check cashing fees and exposure to potentially predatory products. And also, unlike waiting for a paper check, your refund will be direct deposited into your bank account in as few as 10 days. You also have the option to deposit your refund into one account or splitting it among two or three checking or savings accounts.

By designating a portion of your tax refund to buy **U.S. Savings Bonds**, you can build long-term savings and assets. The purchase of savings bonds is a great way to start or increase your overall savings and, by completing an updated Form 8888, *Allocation of Refund*, it is simple and easy to accomplish. If you purchase a Savings Bond with your tax refund you will receive paper bonds in 2012.

The Series I Bonds are issued by the Department of Treasury as a means for purchasers to build long-term savings and assets. Series I bonds are sold at face value (a \$50 bond costs \$50), and they earn interest for up to 30 years. They can be redeemed for principal and accrued earnings anytime after the first 12 months from when they are purchased (unless you live in an area affected by a natural disaster). If a savings bond is redeemed within the first five years, the three most recent months' interest will be forfeited. After five years, no interest forfeit penalty will apply when bonds are redeemed.

Series I Bonds pay interest based on a combination of a fixed rate (which remains the same throughout the life of the Savings Bond) and a semiannual inflation rate which is updated each May and November. Savings Bonds accrue interest until redeemed or until they reach their final maturity in 30 years.

You can now buy savings bonds for yourself as well as two other people, including children and grandchildren! Bonds purchased for others can be purchased for the other individual outright or as a co-owner or a beneficiary. Taxpayers who purchase Savings Bonds without a bank account may receive the remainder of their refund in the form of a paper check. It's easy - just ask your tax preparer!

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links on IRS.gov to more information on Savings Bonds: Savings Bonds

[Using Your Federal Tax Refund to Buy Savings Bonds](#)

Products:

[Publication 4840, Savings Bond Fact Sheet Flyer](#)

[Publication 4905, Savings Bond Poster Ad - \[English\]\(#\) and \[Spanish\]\(#\)](#)

[Publication 4905A, Savings Bond Poster Ad - \[English\]\(#\) and \[Spanish\]\(#\)](#)

[Publication 4905B, Savings Bond Poster Ad - \[English\]\(#\) and \[Spanish\]\(#\)](#)

[Form 8888](#) - Allocation of Refund (including Savings Bond Purchases) - to split a tax refund between more than one bank account, such as a savings or checking account, and purchase U.S. Series I Bonds.

[Widgets](#) - simply copy and paste the embed code

[Savings Bond YouTube video](#) – Did you know that you can purchase up to \$5,000 in U.S. Series I Bonds with your federal tax refund for yourself or others?

Refund to Savings Bonds, Public Service Announcement – [English](#) and [Spanish](#) 60 second audio file.

[Questions and Answers on using refund to buy savings bonds Web page on IRS.gov](#)

Direct Deposits:

[Direct Deposit YouTube video](#) - You can have your tax refund put directly into you bank or checking account.