

# IRS News Release

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## **IRS Announces 2017 Tax Counseling for the Elderly and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Grants**

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service recently awarded over \$21.5 million in Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grants to organizations that provide free federal tax return preparation.

This year, the IRS awarded grants to 25 TCE and 246 VITA applicants. The TCE grants cover one year and the VITA grants cover two years. The IRS received 330 applications requesting \$54.6 million.

The TCE program, established in 1978, provides tax counseling and return preparation nationwide to people who are 60 or older. Volunteers receive training and technical assistance.

The VITA program, created in 1969, assists underserved communities, such as low and moderate income individuals and limited English proficient taxpayers. VITA grant recipients provide free federal tax return preparation and electronic filing. Congress first appropriated funds in 2007 to establish a grant program. The grant program helps expand VITA services to underserved populations and increases the number of taxpayers able to file electronically.

Volunteers continue to provide tremendous support to the two programs since they began. This year, volunteers prepared or facilitated the self-preparation of over 3.7 million returns. For more details on how to become a VITA or TCE volunteer, visit [IRS Tax Volunteers](#).

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