

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (567 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help your customers find a VITA/TCE site in their community.

You may qualify for free tax preparation in your community

[Free tax help](#) is available from IRS-certified volunteers throughout the nation. IRS offers free tax preparation service through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

If you earn about \$54,000 or less, have a disability, are elderly or speak limited English, you may qualify for this service provided through the VITA program.

In addition to VITA, the TCE program offers free tax help for everyone, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older. The program specializes 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 nonprofit organizations.

You can generally find VITA and TCE sites at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country.

At select tax sites, you have the option of preparing your own basic federal and state tax return for free using web-based tax preparation software with an IRS-certified volunteer to help guide you through the process. This option is only available at locations that indicate *Self-Prep* in the site listing.

At a limited number of select sites, you can also get help using Virtual VITA/TCE. These are generally available in rural areas where free tax prep volunteers may be limited. Virtual VITA/TCE uses a variety of secure technology, such as video chat software and file sharing technologies, to connect you with an IRS-certified volunteer located in a different office.

To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, use the [VITA Locator Tool](#) or call 800-906-9887. You can also use the [IRS2Go](#) mobile app to find a site near you.

Please note that when using the locator tool, you will exit IRS.gov and open Google Maps to get directions to a specific location. Sites are added as they share their opening date so continue to check the site for newly added locations.

A majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide program. To locate the nearest AARP TCE Tax Aide site, use the [AARP Site Locator Tool](#) or call 888-227-7669.

Before going to a VITA or TCE site, see [Publication 3676-B](#) for services provided and check out [What to Bring](#) to ensure you have all the required documents and information the volunteers will need to help you.

Available services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the tax law expertise required for your return.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to help taxpayers find the information they need.

IRS.gov

- [Forms, Instructions and Publications](#)
- [Do I Need to File a Tax Return?](#)

YouTube

- [Free Help Preparing Your Tax Return](#)
- [Do-It-Yourself Free Tax Preparation](#)
- [IRS2Go Mobile App](#)

On Twitter? Send these Tweets:

- Yes it's really Free. If you earn \$54,000 or less you can get #IRSFreeTaxPrep now. <http://go.usa.gov/kyrz> #IRSVITA
- Get your taxes prepared for FREE. Find out more at <http://go.usa.gov/kyrz> #IRSfreetaxprep
- #IRSVITA volunteers can help with #EITC, Child Tax Credit and Credit for the Elderly. #IRSFreeTaxPrep <http://go.usa.gov/kyrz>
- Get your #taxes done for #Free by a trusted source in your community #IRSFreeTaxPrep <http://go.usa.gov/kyrz> #IRSVITA