

## Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to remind your customers about the tax filing season deadline.

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April 18 is fast approaching... but there's still time and there's free help.



The tax filing deadline — this year, April 18 — is fast approaching, but there's still time to get free help and file on time. One in five people wait until the final week to file their taxes. Most last-minute filers owe taxes and their returns tend to be more complicated, but remember, the IRS can help make taxes less taxing.

### E-file

The IRS suggests filing your federal tax return using IRS [e-file](#). It's fast, safe and accurate, providing one of the lowest error rates.

You'll receive acknowledgement that the IRS received your return and, if you use Direct Deposit, you'll usually receive your refund in as few as 10 days. If you owe money, you can schedule an automatic payment anytime up to April 18.

### Free File

If you make \$58,000 or less, you can access [free software](#) to help you prepare and file your federal return. If your income is higher, the IRS also provides [Free File Fillable Forms](#). These electronic versions of the paper forms allow you to prepare and file electronically from your home computer.

### Free Tax Return Preparation by Volunteers

If your income is below \$49,000, you can receive free help to prepare your tax return from your local [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly tax preparation site](#).

Members of the U.S. military worldwide can receive free tax assistance through the VITA partnership with the Armed Forces Tax Council. These VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation and assistance to military members and their families.

### Where's My Refund?

[Where's My Refund?](#) is an online application that provides the status of your refund. You can check the status 72 hours after filing electronically or four to six weeks after mailing a paper return.

### Get refund information from your Smartphone with the IRS2Go mobile application

The Smartphone application [IRS2Go](#) lets you check the status of your federal tax refund and obtain helpful tax information. To check the status of your refund, all you need to provide are a few basic pieces of information: your Social Security Number, the filing status used on your tax return and the dollar amount of the refund you expect. You can check the status 72 hours after filing electronically or four to six weeks after mailing a paper return.

### What if I can't pay what I owe by April 18?

Even if you can't pay the full amount owed with your return, you should still file by the April 18 deadline and pay as much as you can to reduce the amount of penalties and interest you will be charged. You should then contact IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to discuss payment options.

The IRS may be able to provide a short-term payment extension or an installment agreement to allow you to pay over time. Most taxpayers eligible for an installment agreement can apply by using the web-based Online Payment Agreement application available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

For more information about these topics, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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**NOTE TO EDITOR:** *Below are links to more information and helpful resources on IRS.gov Web site.*

- Multi-media news release: [IRS Free File available until Oct. 17](#) ( [Spanish](#) format)
- [YouTube video on the April 18 deadline](#) and in [American sign language](#)
- [Help in Filing for an extension for federal taxes](#)
- [Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File US Individual Income Tax Return](#)
- [Tax Topic 304](#) – Extension of Time to File Your Tax Return