



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program FAQs

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT VITA IN 2021?

United Way's VITA program is available to families and individual filers who earned less than \$57,000 annually and live in Rock Island or Scott County.

In 2021, *appointments are required* for all tax preparation – or new drop-off tax preparation – services.

Masks will be required at all VITA locations, and COVID-19 health and safety precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of illness.

To schedule your appointment, dial 2-1-1 or call 563-355-9900.

WHO WILL PREPARE MY TAXES?

Trained volunteers will prepare your taxes at no cost and they will make sure you receive all the tax credits you are eligible for including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

These IRS-certified volunteers can also answer any questions you have about building savings and protecting your finances. Many locations will also offer you the opportunity to open a savings account and have your tax return deposited directly to that account. Returns are deposited into your account in three to five days on average.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE FREE TAX SITES?

In Scott County (Iowa):

- Friendly House, 1221 Myrtle St., Davenport
 - Thursdays, 5:00pm-8:00pm; Saturdays, 9am-Noon

In Rock Island County (Illinois):

- Moline Public Library, 3210 41st St., Moline
 - Mondays, Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:00pm
- Palomares Social Justice Center, 133 4th Ave., Moline
 - Mondays 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, 630 Martin Luther King Drive, Rock Island

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 5:00pm-8:00pm;
- Saturdays 9am-Noon
- Rock Island County Senior Center, 2221 11th St., Rock Island
 - Saturdays 9:00am-12:30pm
- Rock Island Township Hall, 2827 7th Ave., Rock Island
 - Tuesdays 9:30am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:00pm

In Henry County (Illinois):

- Geneseo Public Library, 805 North Chicago St., Geneseo
 - **IMPORTANT:** To schedule your appointment at this location, call 309-944-6452.
 - Mondays and Tuesdays, Noon-4:00pm

WHAT IS DROP-OFF TAX PREPARATION?

United Way will offer drop-off tax preparation by appointment at VITA tax preparation sites. Filers will have the option to schedule a time to check in and drop off tax documents and allow a trained volunteer to prepare their taxes. All personal documents will be secured, and the filer will be required to review and sign final paperwork onsite to complete the filing process and collect their forms.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO MY APPOINTMENT?

The following items are necessary to prepare your tax return:

- Driver's License or Photo ID
- Social Security Card or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for all members in your family
- All W-2 Forms
- Prior year tax return
- Account numbers for electronic deposit of refund
- All 1099 Forms
- 1099-INT Interest from your bank
- 1099-R Pensions, Annuities, Retirement Plans
- Health insurance documentation

If filing jointly, your spouse must be present.

HOW CAN I CHECK MY REFUND STATUS?

For further information you can contact the IRS or call 800-829-1040.

AVAILABLE TAX CREDITS

CHILD TAX CREDITS (CTC)

How can you benefit from the Child Tax Credit? CTC is a federal tax credit now worth up to \$1,000 per child. New eligibility requirements enacted by Congress allow more families to become eligible for the CTC, regardless of whether they owe income tax. Certain families may also be eligible for both the CTC and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

You may claim this credit if you pay someone to care for your dependent who is under 13 years or for your spouse or dependent who is not able to care for him or herself. The credit can be up to 30 percent of your expenses. To qualify, you must pay these expenses so you can work or look for work.

EDUCATION CREDITS

Education Credits are available to persons who pay expenses for higher education. You can claim this credit if A) you pay qualified tuition and related expenses of higher education (this includes borrowed funds) B) you pay the tuition and related expenses for an eligible student C) the eligible student is either yourself, your spouse, or a dependent you claim.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

What is the Earned Income Tax Credit? The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable federal tax credit for eligible individuals and families who work and have earned income. The EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe, and it may give you a refund.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To find out if you qualify for FREE tax preparation, dial 563-355-9900.