



Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs offer free tax help and related financial services to low-income individuals and families. During the 2009 filing season, VITA programs (over 4,300 VITA sites) directly served over **1.2 million underserved taxpayers**, including low-wage workers, persons with disabilities, the elderly, Native Americans, rural populations, and those with limited English-language skills.

Since 2000, the IRS's Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) office has administered the program in partnership with community organizations, non-profit foundations, municipalities, as well as financial and educational institutions.

Community VITA's National Impact

During the 2009 filing season, Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs:

- Filed **1.2 million** federal tax returns and prepared over **400,000 EITC returns** in 2009, which helped clients claim **\$1.6 billion** worth of federal tax refunds.
- Saved families an estimated **\$220 million** in tax return preparation costs in 2009.
- Pioneered **asset development services** for low-income workers at tax sites across the country
- Spearheaded successful efforts to establish the **IRS VITA Grant Program** which provides much needed federal funding for community-based tax preparation programs.

Building Financial Security

For many families, their tax refund is the single largest payment they will receive all year. With their refund, families can catch up on bills, care for their children, and start building their assets – perhaps for the first time. As many families face financial uncertainty, Community VITA sites are there to provide workers

The expanded EITC will help an estimated 650,000 households and 1.4 million children.

with critical financial services and saving opportunities. VITA clients often have the opportunity to open bank accounts and to invest their refunds in safe financial products such as U.S. Savings Bonds, while avoiding the high fees charged by paid preparers and refund anticipation loans (RALs).

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will make the Child Tax Credit available to 2.9 million more children than in 2008.

About NCTC

NCTC is the nation's largest, most comprehensive membership organization for community-based organizations offering free tax and financial services to low- and moderate- income working families.

We believe that together, we can strengthen economies, build communities and improve life for all working families.

Contact NCTC

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