

DON'T PAY TO FILE YOUR TAXES



The Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation's tax season will begin accepting and processing 2020 tax year returns on Friday, February 12, 2021. But, does the cost of filing your taxes make this stressful event even more panic-inducing? Don't worry, there is good news! You may qualify for one of the following options, offered by United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, as well as other trusted organizations. If you earned \$57,000 or less, you can get your federal and state taxes e-filed for free*, and you may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

FILE YOUR TAXES ONE OF TWO WAYS:

1 VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

Free, supported tax preparation services by trained volunteers for anyone who earns less than \$57,000. Call 2-1-1 to make an appointment and find a free tax preparation site near you (dial 2-1-1 or 1-888-696-9211).

2 MYFREETAXES

MyFreeTaxes® is a service offered by United Way for free tax prep for people at all income levels who have a simple return. You can file your taxes completely online from the comfort of your home. Visit myfreetaxes.com to get started.

OR USE ONE OF THESE OPTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING TRUSTED ORGANIZATIONS:

AARP TAX-AIDE

If you're over the age of 50, you can get one-on-one assistance by IRS-certified volunteers at 5,000 Tax-Aide sites run by AARP. AARP membership is not required. Visit aarp.org/aarp-foundation to get started.

IRS FREE FILE

If you earn less than \$69,000, you can file for free through IRS Free File, a partnership between the agency and the Free File Alliance, a group of private preparers. Visit irs.gov to get started.

MILTAX

This is an option for active-duty service members, those in the National Guard or Reserves, and their families. There are no income or tax form restrictions. Visit militaryonesource.mil to get started.

*IRS e-file is fast, more accurate, secure, and simple.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?

*While most returns can be processed, some may be more complex and need referral to a more specialized partner.

1 SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

- Social security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification notices/cards for you, your spouse, and/or dependents



2 IDENTIFICATION

- Picture ID, such as a valid driver's license or other government issued ID, for you and your spouse, if applicable
- If you are married filing jointly, both spouses must be present
- Proof of foreign status if applying for ITIN



3 INCOME STATEMENTS

- W-2 forms for jobs held during the tax year
- 1099 forms (such as 1099-G, 1099-MISC, 1099-INT, 1099-SA, 1099-C)



4 HEALTH INSURANCE STATEMENTS

- Affordable Health Care Statements 1095-A, B, or C



5 EDUCATION CREDITS & ADJUSTMENTS

- If you, your spouse, or a child attended college—tuition expense statement (1098-T) and/or student loan interest



6 CHILD CREDITS

- Child care expenses: provider name, address, tax ID#, and amount paid
- Documentation of court-ordered child support



7 ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

- Medical bills paid
- Charitable contributions made during the year
- Itemized business expenses



8 PROPERTY TAXES

- Home interest and property taxes paid
- Rental information for NYS credit



9 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Birth dates of you, your spouse, and/or dependents on return
- Proof of account information for direct deposit
- A copy of last year's tax return



For more information and to find the tax site closest to you, contact 211 using one of the three ways below.



DIAL 211 OR 888-696-9211



TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 898-211



VISIT 211WNY.ORG