

**From:** Hopwa  
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**To:** HOPWA-L@HUDLIST.HUD.GOV  
**Subject:** From Our Federal Partners: IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

## From Our Federal Partners: IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Did you know that your clients can keep more of their money at tax time by getting free tax preparation from IRS-certified preparers? The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program serves millions of people every year. So does AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

**With these options, free means free.** There are none of the upcharges or hidden fees that some places charge even though they say they are free. And IRS-certified volunteers have a very high accuracy rate as measured by the IRS.

You don't need to be a tax expert yourself to help people access free filing options! The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a federal agency, has prepared resources to help **you** get the word out. Get the basics on free filing with the resources below, then use the pre-made communications linked in this message, including a flier, videos, social media content, and other resources.

### First, watch the Two-Minute Video on Free Filing Options

The CFPB's [2-minute video for service providers](#) reviews the free filing options and explains how you can easily get the word out to the people you serve.

### Register for the Webinars

The CFPB is holding two free online events geared toward service providers that are not, themselves, tax experts. The webinar will review free filing options and ways to help people file, save, and build assets.

- **Free Tax Assistance for Lower Income Taxpayers – Webinar, Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 1:00-2:00 Eastern.** This webinar is designed for frontline service providers and program managers that want to know more about free filing options that use IRS-certified tax preparers. The webinar will highlight ways to encourage consumers to access those services and keep more of their money at tax time. [Register for the webinar.](#)
- **Expert Panel on Free Tax Assistance for Lower Income Taxpayers, Thursday, January 26, 2023, 1:00-2:00 Eastern.** Featuring leaders in the field, this follow-up to the webinar will dig deeper into community-based and online options for free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers. [Register for the panel presentation.](#)

### Then, Pick and Choose Between These Communications:

If you **digitally** communicate with your clients:

- Copy and paste this [text on free-filing options](#) for a blog post, email blast, or online message. (If this is of interest to you, email [David.Sieminski@cfpb.gov](mailto:David.Sieminski@cfpb.gov) to coordinate on any modifications you want to make and on the byline.)
- Link to this [checklist to help taxpayers prepare for their tax appointment](#)
- Help taxpayers use this [worksheet deciding how much to save and where to save it](#)
- Share the CFPB's web-based [Guide to Filing your Taxes for the 2022 Tax Year](#) (available in both English and Spanish)

If you hand out hardcopy resources, distribute flyers, or mail information to clients, print and share:

- [Free filing flyers](#) to make sure your clients know about their FREE filing options, in English and Spanish
- Distribute this [checklist to help taxpayers prepare for their tax appointment](#)
- Share this [worksheet on deciding how much to save and where to save it](#)
- Share this [worksheet on ways to save a tax refund](#)

If you have a social media presence, post these:

- [Example social media messages](#)
- [Tax Time Minute on Tax Prep in Your Community](#) (short video)
- [Tax Time Minute Video on Online Tax Preparation](#) (short video)

With information and encouragement, tax time can be an important opportunity for clients to save, build assets, and take other actions to improve their financial well-being.



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*Housing is a structural intervention in ending the AIDS epidemic in the United States.*

*Each year, HOPWA ensures housing stability for more than 100,000 American households that are low-income and living with HIV.*

*Want to know more about HOPWA? Go to [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/hopwa](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/hopwa)*