



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jon Peacock 284-0580 ext 307
Julie Laundry 284-0580 ext 303

Tax Time Advice: You Deserve a Break and Help is Available *VITA site locations, Helpful Tax Credit Fact Sheet*

Madison – Tax refunds and credits aren't just for rich people. There are tax credits offered by the federal and state governments that you may qualify for.

Unfortunately, many low-income families are unaware of the credits and simply don't claim them. For example, a recent study by the Wisconsin department of Revenue found that less than half of eligible households claimed the state's Homestead Tax Credit, which provides property tax relief for homeowners and renters with annual incomes under \$24,500.

Help is now available to boost participation. Make a call, visit a VITA site, or read a simple fact sheet, and you could have more money in your pocket sooner than you think.

"There are a number of ways taxpayers can get tax preparation help for FREE; knowledge is the key. It doesn't take anymore of your time to visit a VITA site to get your tax help for free than it does to pay a tax preparer who will charge you," said Jon Peacock, Research Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF).

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families has prepared a fact sheet for taxpayers that can help them figure out whether or not they qualify for specific tax credits. This fact sheet is available in English, Spanish and Hmong.

"We hope people will utilize our brief fact sheet and free tax help to put the most money in their pocket at tax time," Peacock said. He added that anyone with a bank account can receive their tax refund electronically and can save substantial amounts compared to the fees charged by many commercial tax preparers. "Opening a bank or credit union account is usually free, and it's a great way to get your tax credit faster, without paying large and unnecessary fees for a quick refund."

FREE help with tax preparation! Public Libraries offer free computer and internet!

Locate a VITA near you: <http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/>

VITA site information: 1-800-829-1040

Free Tax assistance:

<http://www.dor.state.wi.us/faqs/vita.html>

1-800-829-1040 (staffed by IRS)

Free file state tax return: www.wisconsin.gov click on Free File

Free file Federal tax return: www.irs.gov click on Free File

Find out what tax credits you qualify for: www.wccf.org

English: <http://www.wccf.org/pdf/creditable.pdf>

Spanish: http://www.wccf.org/pdf/creditable_spanish.pdf

Hmong: http://www.wccf.org/pdf/creditable_hmong.pdf