

Free Income Tax Assistance

Categories : [Children and Families](#), [Citizenship and Government Related Topics](#), [Older Adult Programs](#)

The following is summarized from the websites of the American Association of Retired Persons: www.aarp.org/ , the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS): www.ct.gov/drs/cwp/view.asp?a=1462&q=289046 and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS): www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc101.html

People needing free help to complete their federal tax forms have a number of options available to them. They can seek assistance at an IRS office, call IRS toll free numbers for forms or questions, or bring forms to a volunteer at a site offering AARP Tax-Aide program or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services. All options are free to the taxpayer.

TAX ASSISTANCE BY TELEPHONE AND ONLINE

- IRS link to resources on their website: <https://www.irs.gov/Help-&-Resources>
- Taxpayers can also access information with little waiting time through a pre-recorded message service, by dialing 1-800-829-4477, to order forms, etc..
- Refund status information can be obtained four weeks after a claim has been filed. The following information must be given to obtain refund status: social security, date of birth and zip code.
- Tax assistance for people with hearing impairments and TTY equipment can be obtained by calling: 1-800-829-4059, 24 hours, Monday – Friday, 7:00am-7:00pm. People without TTY equipment may be able to obtain access through federal or state relay services.
- If an individual believes that they may have been the victim of identity theft, they should dial 1-800-908-4490.

TAX ASSISTANCE AT DRS OFFICE

- The DRS offers in-person income tax filing assistance at the Hartford office until April 15. DRS staff help taxpayers prepare Connecticut tax return forms only. Taxpayers must go to the office by 4:00pm and bring their completed federal tax return. No appointments are taken for tax assistance at the DRS office. Taxpayers can call (860) 297-5962 or 1-800-382-9463, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4pm for assistance over the phone.

AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

- AARP Tax-Aide volunteers offer free income tax assistance for low and middle income households at Tax-Aide sites during the tax season. Assistance to people ages 60+ is given priority. Local Tax-Aide sites can be found by calling the Tax-Aide Site Locator number: (888) 227-7669, using the Site Locator at the [AARP website](#) or going to the [2-1-1 database](#)
Note: Some sites are by appointment only; some are walk in only.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

- Trained volunteers at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites offer free tax filing assistance from mid-January -April 18. (Dates and times vary by site) Anyone, regardless of age, can use a VITA site for assistance. VITA volunteers help taxpayers prepare basic tax return forms. The general eligibility for VITA assistance is income last year was less than \$54,000. VITA sites are held at libraries, churches, senior

centers and other community meeting places. Link onto the [2-1-1 website](#), to find a VITA site
Note: Some sites are by appointment only; some are walk in only

FORMS TO BRING TO A TAX ASSISTANCE SITE

When visiting an IRS, DRS, Tax-Aide or VITA site, bring the following:

- * Photo ID for Caller (and/or spouse, if filing jointly)
- * If married filing jointly, both spouses must attend appointment.
- * Social security cards for every member of the family (if a card is lost, the taxpayer must contact the social security administration to replace card prior to having taxes prepared)
- * W-2s and/or 1099's from ALL jobs worked in 2015
- * A check from the taxpayer's checking account or a savings account number for direct deposit (NOTE: The taxpayer can open a bank account or cash card at the tax site for direct deposit if they do not have an existing account.)
- * Interest statements from financial institutions (if applicable)
- * Tuition and student loan information (if applicable)
- * Documentation from daycare provider, if taxpayer paid for child care in 2015
- * Any other income information or IRS notices received
- * Copy of last years tax return

SOURCES: 2-1-1 database; AARP website; Connecticut Department. of Revenue Services website; Internal Revenue Service website

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