



Individual Income Tax Filing Season Is Almost Here!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (*VITA*) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (*TCE*) sites will be opening soon to provide free basic tax return preparation for low to moderate income taxpayers. *VITA* generally serves those making \$60,000 or less. *TCE* also offers free tax help, particularly to those 60 years of age and older and specializes in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues. All *VITA/TCE* volunteers who prepare returns must pass tax law training that meets or exceeds IRS standards. *VITA/TCE* sites file returns electronically which results in faster processing by the IRS. Before going to a *VITA* or *TCE* site, check out <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/checklist-for-free-tax-return-preparation> to ensure you have all the required documents and information needed to help you. To locate the *VITA/TCE* site nearest you, call 800-906-9887 or go to <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>.

You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (*EITC*) and or Child Tax Credit (*CTC*). You can find information about these credits here: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/who-qualifies-for-the-earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>. Certified volunteers at *VITA* and *TCE* sites will have the information needed to determine if you are eligible for these credits.

If you are filing a simple return, have reliable internet connectivity, and have adjusted gross income of \$73,000 or less, the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) has partnered with IRS Stakeholder Partnerships, Education, and Communication (SPEC) and agreed to post a link on its website to *On-Line Taxes, Inc.* You are invited to file your state and federal returns, for free, by using this *On-Line Taxes, Inc.* link: <https://www.olt.com/main/vita/getstarted.asp?affiliate=VITAFREE&linkID=S27091832>

The best and fastest way to get your tax refund is by direct deposit into your financial account. The IRS reports that most refunds are issued within twenty-one days when direct deposit is used and there are no issues with the return.* If you do not have a bank account, you may want to check into the option of opening a Bank On-certified account. Through its *Get Banked Indian Country Campaign*, ONAC approaches financial institutions, especially those that Native communities trust and already work with, to encourage them to have one of their accounts *Bank On* certified. To learn more about *Native Bank On ONAC*, go to https://oknativeassets.org/resources/Documents/Get_Banked_Indian_Country.pdf. If you want to look for an FDIC-certified bank in your area, go to <https://banks.data.fdic.gov/bankfind-suite/bankfind>.

*The IRS anticipates that refunds including the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit will be available by February 28, 2023 (for early filers, if there are no issues on the return).

**Information courtesy of the ONAC Native EITC/VITA Network.
To learn more about ONAC's work, go to <https://oknativeassets.org>.**