



Federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program



VITA: What is it?



- A federal grant program managed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Supports free income tax preparation services for the underserved.
- VITA sites are operated by IRS grant partners and staffed by volunteers.

Source: IRS



VITA: Who Qualifies for VITA Services?

- Taxpayers who make less than the maximum federal EITC threshold
- Persons with disabilities
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers
- Native Americans
- Underserved urban & rural communities
- Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses

Source: IRS



VITA: Grants and Partners

Eligible partner organizations include public or private non-profits, public or private postsecondary institutions, local government agencies, and federally recognized Indian Tribal governments.

The grants are a 100% match.

VITA Grant Goals:

- Increase VITA services in hardest-to-reach areas across the country
- Increase taxpayer knowledge of available credits
- Increase the number of accurate returns filed electronically

Source: IRS



VITA: Grants and Partners

Partners use funds for:

- Hiring staff to build relationships with community partners, recruiting and retaining volunteers
- Designing and producing marketing materials
- Administering VITA sites, including general operating costs

Utah Grant Recipients FY-22:

Tax Help Utah Inc.

Westminster College

Five County Association of Governments

Source: IRS



VITA: Volunteers

- VITA volunteers include greeters, intake specialists, interpreters, and tax preparers.
- Tax preparers are offered six courses of study.
- Preparers must pass exams and become certified each year by the IRS in order to volunteer at a partner site.



Source: IRS



VITA: Tax Preparation Methods



- Traditional: one visit, in-person, screening, preparing, and quality reviewing the return.
- Virtual: two sites- intake and preparation, intake in-person and preparation completed via mail, fax, or video.
- Facilitated Self Assistance: taxpayers file on their own using a variety of question-based return software. This option is available at fusion, stand-alone, and remote sites.

Source: IRS



Resources

[IRS VITA Page](#)

[Find a VITA Site Near You](#)

[Partner Grant Application Information](#)

[IRS Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program \(TCE\)](#)

[IRS Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Information \(LITC\)](#)

Sister Programs

TCE Program: Tax counseling for the elderly offers free tax help with a focus on assisting taxpayers age 60+

LITC Program: Assists low-income individuals who have a tax dispute with the IRS, and provide education and outreach to individuals who speak English as a second language (ESL)

