

Sample article for organizations to use to reach your customers (388 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to tell your customers about IRS Free File and Self Preparation Tax sites.

Prepare your taxes for FREE by yourself or with a little help

For decades, millions of taxpayers have visited Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly locations to get their taxes prepared for free by IRS-certified volunteers. At these sites, volunteers stand ready to prepare your tax return or help you prepare your own return.

This year, there are more free options to choose from when completing your tax returns. Some of these VITA and TCE sites now have self-help services through partners who offer free return preparation. If you earned up to \$57,000, you can prepare and e-file your own tax return using free tax software provided at these sites and, if you have any questions, an IRS-certified volunteer can guide you through the process. These self-help sites are usually located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. To find one near you go to [Find a Location for Free Tax Prep](#).

IRS Free File is also an option and it's easier to use than you think! You may opt to use [IRS Free File](#) if you meet the income threshold and want to prepare your own return in the comfort of your home. Fifteen of the leading tax software companies work in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service to make these products available for free. Some offer *state returns* for free or for a fee. If you earned \$57,000 or less, you are eligible to use the software products. Or you may use the online fillable forms which have no income limitations. Either way, you can prepare, print and e-file your federal returns — all for free. To find out how, visit the [Free File site](#) on IRS.gov.

If you are getting a refund, remember that the best way to keep track of it is through [Where's My Refund?](#) on IRS.gov. You can begin checking on your refund status within 24 hours after the IRS receives your return. The IRS issued more than 9 out of 10 refunds to taxpayers in less than 21 days last year. The same results are expected in 2013. But it's important to remember that even though the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, it's possible your tax return may require additional review that may take longer to process.

Visit IRS.gov this tax season and see which services are right for you.

References:

Free Tax Preparation for You by Volunteers - <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>

Find a Location for Free Tax Prep - <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Find-a-Location-for-Free-Tax-Prep>

Free File: Do Your Federal Taxes for Free - <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free>

Multimedia:

YouTube – Do-It-Yourself Free Tax Preparation - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26ESO1dqjp0>