

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (499 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help your customers file their past due tax returns.

Filing past due tax returns

You should file all tax returns that are due, even if you can't pay your tax liability in full. File your past due return the same way that you would file an on-time return.

File past due returns now

- If you have a balance due, filing your past due return now and paying your tax liability can limit interest and late payment penalties.
- If you're owed a refund for withholding, estimated taxes, or eligible tax credits, you risk losing that refund if your return is not filed within 3 years of the due date. The same rule applies to a right to claim tax credits such as the Earned Income Credit.
- If you're self-employed and fail to file your tax return, any self-employment income you earned won't be reported to the Social Security Administration. As a result, you won't receive credits toward your Social Security retirement and disability benefits.
- Because copies of filed tax returns are usually required by financial institutions to secure loans, mortgages, and other financial benefits such as federal assistance for higher education, you may be ineligible or face delays if you're not current with your tax returns.

Help filing your past due return

- You can download prior year IRS [tax forms and instructions](#) on IRS.gov or order them by calling 800-829-3676 (or 800-829-4059 for TTY/TDD).
- For wage and income information to help prepare a past due return, complete [Form 4506-T Request for Transcript of Tax Return](#) and check the box on line 8. You can also contact your employer or payer of income.
- If you need information from a prior year tax return, use [Get Transcript](#) to request a return or account transcript.
- If you have [received a notice from the IRS](#), be sure to send your past due return to the location indicated on the notice that you received.
- If you are experiencing a hardship and you can't file your past due return, you can call or write your local [Taxpayer Advocate Office](#) for your state.

If you owe

- If you owe more than you can pay, you can request an additional 60-120 days to pay your account in full through the [Online Payment Agreement](#) application or by calling 800-829-1040. You will not be charged a user fee.
- If you still need more time to pay, you can request an [installment agreement](#) or you may qualify for an [offer in compromise](#).

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to help taxpayers find the information they need.

On IRS.gov

- [Filing Past Due Tax Returns](#)
- [Filing Your Taxes](#)

On Twitter? Send these Tweets:

- If you haven't filed 2016 [#tax](#) return, visit [IRS.gov](#) for resources & tools to help <https://go.usa.gov/xR8zK> [#IRSTaxTip](#)
- Owe taxes? [#IRS](#) tool lets you view [#tax](#) [#payment](#) history, balances, payoff amounts: [irs.gov/balancedue](#)