

FREE TAX HELP: USE A VITA CLINIC

Did you know that if you earn less than \$53,000 a year, you probably qualify to have a government-trained tax preparer help you file your income taxes - for free? The IRS trains thousands of volunteers each year to prepare simple tax returns. These volunteers staff Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinics, which are monitored by the IRS to make sure they do good work. There are dozens of VITA clinics in southeastern Wisconsin and many of them have Spanish-speaking volunteers. This year, don't pay hundreds of dollars to a tax preparation service. Make an appointment at the nearest VITA clinic and let a trained volunteer help you file your taxes correctly - for no fee at all.



I go to the same place every year, and they always get me a huge refund. Why should I switch?

If you have been filing your taxes correctly, you should get a similar refund when you use a VITA clinic to file. We understand that everyone wants the biggest refund possible. Unfortunately, many tax preparers are able to get you a big refund because **they are breaking the rules**. For example, they might tell you to file as Head of Household when you *should* file

Continued on page 2



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Serving people of all faiths

JANUARY 23, 2015

Our tax series continues, and we update you on Executive Action.

Volume 1, Issue 8

In this issue:

- Free Tax Help: Use a VITA Clinic **1-2**
- What's New with Executive Action? **1-2**
- SCAM ALERT: IRS Impersonators **2**

WHAT'S NEW WITH EXECUTIVE ACTION?

The short answer? Not much. Immigration is not yet accepting applications for the new programs created under Executive Action. They expect to begin accepting applications for the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program after February 18, and for Deferred Action for

Parental Accountability (DAPA) after May 19. We do not have new information about Executive Action beyond what we published in our fact sheet on December 15, 2014. If you need a copy of this fact sheet, you can find one on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ccmkeLSI. Be sure to check

our Facebook page, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction, for updates.

Meanwhile, if you plan on applying for Deferred Action for Parental Accountability

Continued on page 2

**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
LEGAL
SERVICES
FOR
IMMIGRANTS**

OFFICE LOCATION
731 W. Washington St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204

PHONE
414-643-8570 x. 4418

OUR STAFF
Barbara Graham, JD
Director of Legal
Services for Immigrants

Kathryn Finley, JD
Immigration Attorney

Kevin Layde, JD
Immigration Attorney

Gloria Maldonado
Paralegal

Elizabeth Pierson
Paralegal

Victor Paredes
Office Coordinator

WEBSITE
www.ccmke.org



FREE TAX HELP (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

as “Married.” Or they might tell you to claim dependents in El Salvador or Honduras, which is not allowed.

It is never a good idea for anyone to lie to the government, on purpose or by accident. But immigrants, **especially undocumented immigrants**, need to be extra-careful.

Why is it so important for immigrants to follow tax rules?

1. When you apply for some immigration benefits, like citizenship, you might have to show your tax returns to an immigration officer or immigration judge. If you clearly broke tax rules, it might make you look bad, and your application could be denied.
2. When President Obama announced the new Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, he said that applicants would be required to pay their taxes. You should pay your taxes now, including back taxes, to make sure you will qualify for DAPA.
3. Even if you are not in an immigration process, the IRS might notice that you have been breaking the rules. If you have not paid all the taxes you should have paid, they might make you pay “back taxes” from all the years you underpaid, with interest. If you regularly underpay taxes, you may end up paying the government thousands of dollars in the future.

EXECUTIVE ACTION (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

(DAPA), you may want to start gathering the following documents:

1. Proof of identity (birth certificate, passport).
2. Proof of arrival before January 1, 2010.
3. Proof that you have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
4. Birth certificate(s) of your U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident child(ren).
5. Income tax returns since 2010.

TIP: Save your tax refund! The DAPA application will probably cost hundreds of dollars. Don’t let money be the reason you don’t apply.

SCAM ALERT: IRS IMPERSONATORS

Have you ever gotten a phone call from somebody claiming to work for the IRS, demanding money or threatening you with deportation or arrest? These calls are scams. If you owe money to the IRS, the IRS will write you a letter. They will never call you. If somebody calls you claiming to be an IRS officer and tells you to send money, just ignore them. You can report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.



Our anti-fraud outreach project is made possible by support from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Wisconsin Consumer Antifraud Fund. Thank you!