

United Way of Broome County, Inc.
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United Way
of Broome County

NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

For more information:
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United Way of Broome County Announces Free Tax Preparation Service to Locals

United Way of Broome County and 211 Susquehanna River Region are pleased to announce its partnership Broome County DSS, offering free tax preparation services to local residents through the IRS approved tax program, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. If you earn less than \$66,000 you may be eligible to have your tax returns filed for free and qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In collaboration with our community partners and VITA sites, we provide low-income residents with free tax preparation assistance to help them maximize available credits and receive tax refunds. In 2019, we mobilized volunteer tax preparers to prepare over 1,540 returns. Through our partnership, we helped local individuals and families receive a total of \$2,647,432 in tax refunds, with an additional estimated savings of over \$401,940 in tax preparation costs to participants (based on IRS estimates). The total value provided to the community was \$3,251,158 when combining savings in tax prep fees, refunds and in-kind value and time.

COVID-19 safety protocols have been implemented to ensure social distancing and limited contact with tax preparers. Intake appointments will be scheduled through 211, and tax information will be gathered at intake appointments. IRS Specialists will prepare tax returns will be processed at a later date. Taxpayers will be given a scheduled day and time to return to the VITA site to pick up their copy of their income tax returns and tax information.

Additionally, taxpayers also have the option of filing taxes for free for income up to \$66,000 at www.MyFreeTaxes.com. This service is absolutely FREE.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Residents may qualify for free tax preparation if their total household income is less than \$66,000. Residents must also work and live in New York State, hold no rental property income and must have no other state income but New York.

SCHEDULE A DROP-OFF APPOINTMENT ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE

Schedule an appointment at one of our several locations by visiting www.uwbroome.org or calling 211. Through a series of questions, learn if you qualify for the free service and easily register for a 20-minute appointment. Pick-up appointments will be scheduled at this time.

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Appointments are being scheduled January 27, 2021, through April 13, 2021. Locations include United Way of Broome County and Broome County Career & Community Services Center at the Oakdale Mall. Dates and times will vary by location. Be sure to bring all necessary paperwork. Masks must be worn at all times during drop-off appointment.

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