



## YOU EARNED IT. KEEP IT.

If you worked in the past year and earned \$51,000 or less, you can get your taxes filed for FREE\*, and you may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

*\*While most returns can be processed, some may be more complex and need referral to a more specialized preparer.*

### What is the EITC?

The EITC is a refundable tax credit, which means that it can be larger than the amount you paid in taxes. It is for people who worked (even self-employed people) but whose wages were below certain limits.

### How do I know if I'm eligible?

For free\* tax preparation, you must have earned \$51,000 or less in 2012

### For the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), you must:

- Have worked in 2012 and meet the income limits below
- Have one or more qualifying\*\* children, OR be between ages 25 and 65 without a child (you don't need children to claim this credit)

*\*\*Your tax preparer can determine whether your child/children meet the requirements for qualifying children.*

#### Earned Income Tax Credit Income Requirements

Number of Children	Single - maximum income:	Married filing jointly - maximum income:	Maximum EITC:
No Children	\$13,980	\$19,190	\$475
1 Child	\$36,920	\$42,130	\$3,169
2 Children	\$41,952	\$47,162	\$5,236
3 or more Children	\$45,060	\$50,270	\$5,891

### Come Prepared

#### What Should I Bring to the Tax Site?

- Social security cards or ITIN letters and birth dates for you and everyone else listed on your tax return
- Picture ID, such as a valid driver's license or other government issued ID for you and your spouse, if applicable
- W-2 forms for jobs held during the tax year
- 1099 forms, such as 1099G, 1099Misc, 1099Int
- Any letter or notice you may have received from the IRS
- A copy of last year's return
- For a faster refund that is directly deposited, bring your savings and/or checking account numbers and routing numbers
- Your spouse, if married filing jointly.

#### Other Receipts That May Increase Your Refund

- Rental information for NYS credit
- If you paid for child care – documentation listing provider name, address, tax ID#, and amount paid
- If you, your spouse, or a child attended college – tuition expense statement (1098T) and/or student loan interest statement (1098E)
- Documentation of court-ordered child support
- Home interest and property taxes paid
- Medical bills paid
- Charitable contributions made during the year
- Itemized business expenses

# Two Ways to File Your Taxes for FREE

## 1 In person at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout Erie County



Call 2-1-1 (dial 2-1-1 or 1-888-696-9211) for the location of the free tax prep site nearest you. Many sites offer additional services like banking, assistance in Spanish or sign language, or the ability to prepare military returns. Tax preparers are fully trained and IRS certified to complete and file\* your return electronically at no charge. File early and receive your refund in as little as 7-10 days.

2-1-1 can direct you to the site that best meets your needs, tell you the hours they are open, and let you know whether you need to schedule an appointment. 2-1-1, a program of the Olmsted Center for Sight, is a free service that provides information and referral for Erie County and Western New York.

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The Free Tax Preparation Network is made possible through: United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, Bank of America, Citizens Bank, Internal Revenue Service, Walmart Foundation, M&T Bank, Josephine Goodyear Foundation and the Hanna Peters Trust of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

## 2 Online at [www.myfreetaxes.com/cashbuffalo](http://www.myfreetaxes.com/cashbuffalo)



If you would rather do your taxes yourself, you can e-file your Federal and State taxes for FREE if your adjusted gross income last year was less than \$57,000. Filing online is simple, fast and secure. You will need an email address to register.

Myfreetaxes is made available by Creating Assets, Savings & Hope (CASH), an initiative of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, and the following partners:

Walmart Foundation, United Way Worldwide, National Disability Institute