

# FREE TAX PREP – FACT SHEET



## WHAT IS THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER CINCINNATI (UWGC) FREE TAX PREP PROGRAM?

The UWGC Free Tax Prep Program assists eligible tax filers to file their taxes, saving approximately \$250 in tax preparation fees.

The program offers two free filing solutions:

- **myfreetaxes.com** is a free, secure and mobile-optimized website available for families with incomes under **\$66,000**, sponsored by United Way and powered by H&R Block, with a helpline (1-855-MY-TX-HELP) supported by IRS-certified operators.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** is a free in-person tax filing support for families with incomes under **\$54,000** through trained and certified volunteers at walk-in or appointment sites throughout the region.

## WHY DOES UWGC WANT TO HELP INDIVIDUALS FILE THEIR TAXES FOR FREE?

At UWGC we believe in creating a community where everyone has an opportunity to thrive. **Free Tax Prep is one of our key initiatives to help families achieve financial stability.**

Free Tax Prep helps low and moderate wage workers keep more money in their pockets. Tax filing is also required for secondary education supports, marketplace health insurance, home mortgages and eligibility for some public benefits. **In 2017 our regional collaborative helped file over 17,000 returns, providing more than \$20 million in refunds to local families and communities.**

## WHY DOES UWGC WANT TO PARTNER WITH COMPANIES TO PROMOTE ITS FREE TAX PREP PROGRAM?

70% of US tax filers are eligible for free tax preparation, but many don't know it. That includes many employees at partner worksites as well as United Way donors and volunteers! **Connecting your workforce with this benefit is one more way to give back to our partner companies and to our donors.**

## HOW DOES MYFREETAXES.COM WORK?

myfreetaxes.com is sponsored by United Way and powered by H&R Block. Filers can start their taxes online and finish them on any device, anywhere. They can even upload tax forms by taking a picture with their mobile phones. Many filers finish their taxes in under one hour. [Watch to learn more.](#) (updated version available mid-January)

## HOW DOES THE IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) WORK?

There are 34 VITA sites sponsored by United Way and partner agencies at locations throughout our region. Each site has trained and certified volunteers who offer in-person tax assistance. Some sites are by appointment; others offer walk-in service.

## HOW CAN MY COMPANY SUPPORT UWGC'S FREE TAX PREP PROGRAM?

Your company can recruit tax-prep volunteers or offer a VITA site for the community or co-workers. United Way provides all the training and support, and it's a great tool to combine community service, outreach, teambuilding and continuing education.

## WHAT COMPANIES ARE SPONSORING THE EXISTING VITA SITES?

### 2017-2018 Corporate Partners

EY	PNC Bank
Fifth Third Bancorp	Republic Bank
First Financial Bank	RiverHills Bank
GE Aviation	SC Ministry Foundation
Huntington Bank	The Kroger Company
Internal Revenue Service	Thomas More College
Key Bank	Union Savings Bank
Macy's	Guardian Savings Bank
Park National Bank	Xavier University

## HOW CAN I PROMOTE THIS WITH MY EMPLOYEES?

Connect your employees with United Way Free Tax Prep by rolling out a communication campaign at your workplace. **Your UWGC Relationship Manager can assist you in sharing this great benefit with your employees.**

## WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO SHARE AND PROMOTE THIS PROGRAM WITH MY EMPLOYEES?

UWGC has developed several tools ready to share and customize. Some of these tools are:

- Flyers, posters, videos
- Ready-to-forward emails
- Interactive on-site activities

## HOW CAN I MEASURE SUCCESS?

If you authorize us to obtain metrics and provide us with your company's EIN, we can provide reports with the number of employees who filed their taxes using myfreetaxes.com.

**Confidential and sensitive information is not disclosed or shared.**