

Be a VITA/ TCE Volunteer This Tax Season

*Secretary Richard G. Chandler
Wisconsin Department of Revenue*

Each year, hundreds of volunteers make a difference in their communities by getting involved with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly/Tax-Aide (TCE) programs. This year, as we get ready for another tax season, please consider being a VITA or TCE volunteer.

Last year, these programs helped more than 65,000 families in Wisconsin. The VITA program offers free tax help to people making \$50,000 or less who need help preparing their own income tax returns. The TCE program provides free tax help for everyone, but with an emphasis on people who are 60 years or older. TCE volunteers also specialize in helping taxpayers with questions pertaining to their investment and retirement accounts, pensions and insurance, and with unique tax issues that affect seniors.

These programs positively impact thousands of families each year, but only because volunteers donate their time, experience and expertise to these important programs. You don't have to be an expert to be a volunteer. Those who volunteer work with an experienced site coordinator who helps them complete the federal income tax law training through the IRS Link & Learn program, which can be found on the IRS website: <https://www.linklearncertification.com/d/>. Volunteers must also complete state income tax training, which is provided by individual site coordinators.

Throughout tax season, I have the opportunity to visit VITA and TCE sites across the state. I really enjoy talking with program volunteers. I am always impressed with the great customer service and tax assistance they provide to taxpayers in their communities. Volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of those who use these programs to file their taxes.

Please consider volunteering for the VITA and TCE programs. Signing up is easy and can be done by visiting our website at <https://ww2.revenue.wi.gov/Internet/vitavolunteerinfo.html> or by calling (608) 266-2772 and speaking with one of our customer service representatives. By volunteering, you can truly benefit your neighbors and community members.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue helps formulate state tax policy, administers the state's major tax laws, collects individual and business taxes, and provides state financial aid to local governments.