



Sarasota County Health and Human Services | Florida Department of Health scgov.net | 941-861-5000 |TV

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MEDIA NOTE: An updated list of AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Sites and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Tax-Aide Sites is provided at the end of this release.

Free tax aid brings benefits

There is still time for families to file for tax credits. As the April 15 federal tax filing deadline approaches, it is vital that families have the information they need to take advantage of eligible tax credits. Families may be able to receive up to \$2,100 from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, up to \$1,000 per child from the federal Child Care Tax Credit and up to \$4,824 from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). These refunds from the federal government can be used for unplanned expenses such as reliable transportation, safe and green housing, college funds or savings, skills training or to start a business.

Free tax aid is available for quick filing of federal individual income tax returns. There are no income requirements and no appointments for those who use the AARP Foundation or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax aide sites in Sarasota County. However, those with business returns or complex tax issues will not be able to use this service.

Generally, a refund can be posted to a person's bank account within nine to 16 days after the visit to one of these tax aide sites. Trained IRS-certified tax-aide volunteers are at each location to provide free personal income tax assistance to EITC-eligible residents and older adults (some guidelines apply). Services include responding to questions, assisting eligible persons, including older adults in filing their taxes, reporting and receiving the benefit of all available and eligible credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit.

People are advised to bring these documents: 2007 tax return, social security cards for all family members, correct birth dates for all family members, all W-2 wage and tax statements for 2008, form 1098 mortgage interest and property taxes, Form 1099-DIV, C, INT, MISC, Q, R, RRB, SSA for 2008, a picture ID of you and your spouse if filing jointly (joint returns require that both filers be present to sign the form), and a voided check and/or savings account number for direct deposit (this is optional).

The United Way of Sarasota County operates two Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites as part of a coordinated effort between the United Way's Financial Stability Campaign and the Sarasota County Earned Income Tax Credit Task Force. The goal is to help ensure that residents who are eligible for the various tax credits receive their earned share. The AARP Foundation operates nearly a dozen other sites as part of ongoing efforts to assist older residents who either need help filing their taxes or who need to consult about a tax issue.

For more information including a link to on-line EITC filing, visit the Sarasota County Government website at www.scgov.net. If you do not have computer access, call United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc. by dialing 2-1-1 for more information. Those with mobile or pay phones should call 941-308-4357.

Local AARP Foundation Tax Aide Sites and VITA Tax Aide E-File Sites:

Sarasota sites

Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota 34240
Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gulf Gate Library

7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota 34231
Monday; 4 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, (closed first Thursday, March 5) 1 to 4 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Selby Public Library

1331 First St., Sarasota 34236
Monday and Tuesday, 3 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday 1 to 4 p.m.

Senior Friendship Center

1888 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota 34236
Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

North Sarasota County United Way Building (VITA Site)

1445 Second St., Sarasota 34236
Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Venice sites

Bay Indies Park

950 Ridgewood Ave., Venice 34285
Wednesday only; 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Jacaranda Public Library

4143 Woodmere Blvd., Venice 34293

Monday and Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

South Sarasota County United Way Building (VITA Site)

7810 S. Tamiami Trail, #A-4, Venice 34293

Tuesday and Wednesday, 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Venice Community Center

326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice 34285

Tuesday and Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nokomis

The Community Pharmacy of Sarasota (VITA Outreach Site)

225 South Tamiami Trail, Nokomis 34275

Thursday, March 26; 1 to 5 p.m.

Englewood sites

Sun Trust Bank

333 South Indiana Ave., Englewood 34223

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church (VITA Outreach Site)

401 S. Broadway, Englewood

Thursday, April 2; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

North Port sites

Holiday Park Recreation Center (Rec. Hall)

5401 Holiday Park Blvd., North Port 34287

Monday only; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

North Port Community Education Center (AKA North Port Senior Center)

4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port 34287

Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

North Port Library

13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287

Thursday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

North Port Family Service Center (New VITA Site)

6919 Outreach Way, North Port FL 34287

Mondays: March 30; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.