

**Urban League kicks off annual free tax preparation program
*Drop-off program to limit contact amid pandemic***

**T**he Urban League of Greater Chattanooga and community partners launched the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the 2021 tax year. VITA is an annual initiative to provide free tax preparation for qualifying individuals and families throughout the greater Chattanooga region. Individuals and households whose income is $58,000 or less may be eligible for the program as well as people with disabilities, United Way members, seniors, retirees and limited English speaking taxpayers.

There are five VITA locations in the Chattanooga area where taxpayers can drop off their paperwork through April 14, 2022:

* The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga (Monday-Thursday)
* Northside Neighborhood House (Mondays)
* Second Missionary Baptist Church (Mondays & Saturdays)
* Soddy Daisy Senior Center (Tuesdays)
* Southern Adventist University (Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays)

In addition, there are two locations in Bradley County, two in Marion and one in Rhea. As a precaution amid COVID-19, taxpayers will drop off the necessary forms. Later, they will schedule an appointment to review the completed returns.

Taxpayers who received **Advanced Child Tax** payments must bring the IRS Letter 6419 to the VITA drop off. Not having the letter and giving the incorrect amount received for the advanced child tax payments could delay a refund.

The IRS will be sending Letter 6475 to taxpayers who received a third stimulus check of $1,400. That letter is also needed for filing. Any taxpayer who did not receive the $1,400 stimulus check must still file their 2021 tax return, and VITA volunteers will complete the Recovery Rebate form.

Taxpayers need to bring all tax documents such as W2 forms, 1099-S forms, Social Security Cards for all children, valid photo identification, Affordable Care Act (ACA) Statements, 1095-A forms, tax returns for 2019 and 2020, and home mortgage statements and IRS Letters 6419 and 6475. Each VITA site will have free information on tax documents, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), IRS updates and the VITA locations list.

For more information about VITA and a list of filing locations and times, please visit [www.ulchatt.net/vita-tax-resources](http://www.ulchatt.net/vita-tax-resources) or call the Urban League at 423-756-1762 or simply dial 311 or 211. In addition, tax prep videos are available online at [www.ulchatt.net](http://www.ulchatt.net) or on the Chattanooga Urban League’s Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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