



# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

## WHAT WE DO



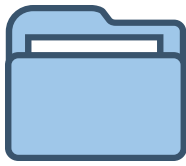
IRS Certified volunteers provide free tax preparation for anyone with annual income of less than \$54,000 at sites around the state. We take the pressure off individuals trying to negotiate the often complex tax laws that accompany even the most basic returns. And, we save Vermonters the cost of paying for tax preparation services and falling victim to some preparers' predatory refund anticipation loans.

## -- FY 17 Outcomes --

**\$5.2 Million!**



Put \$5,292,679 back into the economy and helped to stabilize families with low income with \$1,923,657 in EITC savings



**8,134 Returns**

Vermont Community Action Agencies completed 3,716 Federal returns and 4,373 State returns. An estimated \$661,931 in tax preparation fees saved.

**In Addition...**



Assisted households with Renter's Rebate applications and Homestead Declarations

## WHO WE SERVE

Individuals w/low and moderate incomes including:



- The elderly
- Individuals with disabilities
- New Americans

We provide interpreters for those that have difficulty with English and sign language interpreters for the deaf.

**100%**

## ACCURACY RATE

In VT, VITA has a 100% accuracy rating. Nationally, VITA is proven to have the most accurate filing rate of any other tax preparer at 94%.

## AUGMENTING STATEWIDE ACCESS

To ensure that program is funded adequately and to augment access to the free tax assistance statewide, an investment of \$100,000 by the State of Vermont would make a tremendous difference. This state investment would leverage the \$51,450 from the IRS in funding.

**\$100,00 State of Vermont**  
**=**  
**\$51,450 IRS Funding**

How Are

**Funds Used?**

The money is used for staffing to recruit, coordinate and train volunteers, to identify and establish multiple sites, to provide technical support to the volunteers, and to answer taxpayers on questions during and after tax season, along with expenses associated with marketing and reporting.