



## JOHNSON COUNTY Social Services

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Johnson County Social Services  
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### For immediate release

### Free tax preparation assistance available

**Johnson County, Iowa** – Tax time just got a little less stressful. Thanks to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, qualifying low- to moderate-income workers in Johnson County can receive free tax preparation assistance from trained volunteers. VITA 2018 services begin Wednesday, Jan. 24, with a clinic at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 South Linn Street, from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Clinics will be available at several locations, days and times in Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty through Wednesday, April 11.

The Internal Revenue Service estimates that 20 percent of American workers do not claim the refundable tax credits for which they are eligible, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a special benefit for working people with low to moderate income. Workers who qualify for the EITC and file a federal tax return may be eligible for a portion or all of the federal income tax taken out of their pay during the year. They may also receive additional cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings were too small to owe income tax may be eligible for the EITC.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 marks the 12th anniversary of EITC Awareness Day, a nationwide effort to increase awareness about EITC and free tax preparation sites. This year, the IRS is promoting EITC and providing information on other refundable tax credits for which workers may be eligible. This includes the American Opportunity Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the Additional Child Tax Credit.

VITA tax clinics provide trained student volunteer tax preparers from the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business to people who, in 2017, earned less than \$55,000. Last year VITA volunteers filed 1,435 tax returns for Johnson County participants, with Federal refunds totaling \$1,786,094.

VITA is a partnership among Johnson County Social Services, the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City Community School District and United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties. The program is funded by Johnson County and ISED Ventures, an Iowa asset development organization that creates opportunities for low- and moderate-income Iowans to achieve financial stability. ISED receives funding for this program from the Department of Human Services and the Internal Revenue Service.

VITA tax clinics will be offered at the following locations (appointments are not necessary):

**Iowa City Public Library**, 123 South Linn Street, Iowa City

Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Feb. 3, 10 and 17
- March 3, 24 and 31
- April 7

Sundays, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Spanish interpreters are available at the Sunday clinics.

- Jan. 28
- Feb. 4, 18 and 25
- March 4 and 25
- April 1 and 8

Monday, 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.

- April 9

Tuesday, 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.

- April 10

Wednesdays, 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.

- Jan. 24 and 31
- Feb. 14 and 28
- March 7 and 21
- April 11

**Southeast Junior High**, 2501 Bradford Drive, Iowa City

Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Interpreters available by appointment only.

- Feb. 11, 18 and 25
- March 4

**Northwest Junior High**, 1507 8th Street, Coralville

Mondays, 6 to 9 p.m. Spanish interpreters are available at this site.

- Jan. 29
- Feb. 5, 12 and 19

**Garner Elementary**, 80 Birch Court, North Liberty

Mondays, 6 to 9 p.m. Interpreters available by appointment only.

- Feb. 26
- March 5, 19 and 26.

To schedule an interpreter or to request an interpreter for a language other than Spanish (including sign language), contact An Leonard at 319-356-6090 at least four days in advance.

For more information on these free tax preparation sites, call the United Way toll-free at 2-1-1 (from a landline telephone) or 1-866-469-2211, or visit the Johnson County website at [www.johnson-county.com](http://www.johnson-county.com).

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