Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Offered by: U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Target Credit Union Participants: Credit unions wishing to provide tax services for their community.

Program Objective: The VITA program provides volunteer-run tax counseling for the elderly and free tax preparation service for low to moderate income taxpayers. The IRS initiative uses VITA, in conjunction with increased awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), asset-building opportunities and financial education services, to provide numerous benefits to credit unions and their members such as the following:

- Free tax preparation service for members and potential members.
- Free electronic filing with direct deposit options leading to increased assets.
- Increase in credit union membership.
- Goodwill through member benefits and outreach to the community (e.g., potential members).
- Continuing Professional Education credits for qualified volunteers who receive VITA training.

Credit Union Eligibility: All credit unions can participate in this program.

Program Features and Requirements: Participating credit unions establish or co-host a VITA site located in their office space or an alternate location in the community. The IRS provides the software, training for VITA volunteers, and in some instances, the equipment to support the establishment of the VITA site. The participating credit union will work with federal and local agencies to recruit volunteers and advertise the services (e.g., free tax preparation, EITC, asset-building and financial education). The member visits the VITA site for free tax preparation services and may qualify for the EITC. Members are made aware of the benefits of using part or all of their refund to take advantage of credit union products and services.

Program Cost: Expected costs include marketing, paper supplies, refreshments, etc..

Contact:

Internal Revenue Service
401 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
Attn: Stop 49-WI
E-mail: Darrell.Lloyd@irs.gov

Please include a primary and alternate contact's name and telephone number with all inquiries.