

## **PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHTS FREE TAX SERVICES FOR MONTANA TAXPAYERS**

MontanaFreeFile.org helps taxpayers find free options for tax preparation and electronic filing

Helena, MT – A partnership of government and non-profit entities—including the Montana Credit Union Network, Montana Department of Revenue, Montana AARP, Montana Legal Services Association and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Montana—today urged taxpayers to take advantage of a “one-stop” website that provides information on free tax preparation and electronic filing to eligible taxpayers.

The partnership urged all taxpayers to visit MontanaFreeFile.org to see if they’re eligible to take advantage of the free services offered to taxpayers who qualify. Qualification criteria are typically based on age, financial status and geographic location.

Dan Bucks, director of the Montana Department of Revenue, said that taxpayers who file their returns electronically and use direct deposit can receive their state tax refund in as little as five to ten days. Taxpayers who file paper tax returns will wait up to six to ten weeks for their refunds.

MontanaFreeFile.org makes it possible for thousands of hard-working Montana taxpayers to find options to prepare and file both their state and federal taxes for free. The website includes information on Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, do-it-yourself tax preparation and e-filing services, and various IRS and state-approved free file sites.

MontanaFreeFile.org was developed to offer taxpayers a one-stop location for information on free tax preparation and electronic filing options.

“Because of the many free tax filing options available with varying eligibility requirements, we believed a “one-stop” location was necessary to help filers determine which option was the best,” said Jeanne Saarinen, executive director of Montana Credit Unions for Community Development, a branch of the Montana Credit Union Network. “With different eligibility requirements and locations, having all the options accessible in one location makes the process much easier for the taxpayer.”

Today’s event was held at the Helena Community Credit Union in Helena, one of 30 credit unions providing financial support for the project. Others providing support for MontanaFreeFile.org are the Montana Department of Revenue, Montana Legal Services Association, and Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Montana.

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