



January 21, 2005

Contact: Geraldine Conrad
(312) 814-0097

www.revenue.state.il.us

I-Filing of State Income Tax Off To Record Start

Don't Miss the Can't Miss Option to Paper Filing for all Income Levels

CHICAGO - Nearly 65,000 Illinoisans filed their state tax returns electronically in the first five days of the filing season, the fastest start ever for the Illinois electronic filing program. This is the 15th season of electronic filing in Illinois, a program that has grown from fewer than 813 participants in 1991 to nearly 2.2 million last year.

"Taxpayers can file directly on our website at ILtax.com, for free, and see their refund in their bank account within a week," said Revenue Director Brian Hamer. "It's so easy there's no reason to file a paper tax return."

Taxpayers can file online through the Department of Revenue's web site at www.ILtax.com or by using tax preparation software that they purchase. Those who use tax professionals can ask that their return be filed electronically.

Low-income working families can benefit from electronic filing this year at all 33 Tax Counseling Project sites operated by the Center for Economic Progress, with support from the Department of Human Services.

Those sites are listed on the Revenue Department's web site at www.ILtax.com and provide free preparation and electronic filing of federal and state tax returns for families earning under \$26,000 and for individuals earning less than \$15,000. The Tax Counseling Project prepared 23,000 paper tax returns for Illinois working families last year.

"We are partnering with a dozen banks and credit unions to help taxpayers open bank accounts and take advantage of electronic filing and direct deposit," said David Marzahl, the Center's Executive Director.

Electronic filing assures the completeness and accuracy of information, provides taxpayers a confirmation number to prove they filed, and offers the security of information going from one computer to another.