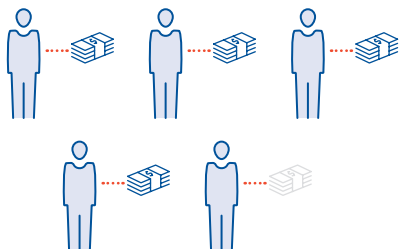


FREE TAX PREP PROGRAM

Helping low-income families keep more of what they earn.

MAY 2019

WORKING PEOPLE LEAVE MONEY UNCLAIMED



1 in 5 eligible workers do not claim their Earned Income Tax Credit

FREE TAX PREP ADDS UP

1,030 volunteers
+ 21,975 tax returns

\$30.1 million
in federal refunds

OVERVIEW

When tax time comes around, thousands of hard-working people in King County face age, income, language, or disability barriers. Many are eligible for tax credits and refunds that could put them on a path to financial stability, but few can afford professional tax services to figure it all out. The **Free Tax Preparation Program** is a direct solution to this problem.

HOW IT WORKS

From January to April, IRS-certified volunteers offer free tax help to people making less than \$66,000 per year. Volunteers are trained to ensure that all eligible tax payers claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, a credit that is widely seen as the nation's most potent anti-poverty tool.

Easy to access. Walk-in neighborhood sites include libraries and Goodwill stores.

Fast. All returns are filed electronically, so clients get their refunds quickly.

Multilingual. Services are available in 50 languages with help from volunteer interpreters.

Volunteers are also on-site to help people connect to public benefits, financial counseling, and other services. Last year we connected 3,754 people to additional services.

SUCCESS THIS YEAR

The Free Tax Preparation Program is a key part of our community-wide effort to help 50,000 people escape poverty by 2020. In 2018, we trained **1,030 volunteers**, who completed **21,975 tax returns** for low-income people and secured **\$30.1 million in federal refunds**.



EMILY

“Money is stressful. Getting help with my taxes plus learning how to set myself up for success financially—that was a game changer.”

—Emily, Free Tax Prep client



United Way of King County