



UNITED WAY CHAMPIONS  
Local solutions. Lasting impact.

# FREE TAX PREP

Helping Low-income Families Keep More of What They Earn

When tax time comes around, thousands of hard-working people in King County face age, income, language and 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.

Your investment in the Free Tax Prep Program provides a direct solution to this problem.

PRE-COVID-19 CRISIS RESULTS

9,000+

people filed their taxes for free in the first six weeks.

Through February, more than 1,000 volunteers staffed the 33 sites across the county. Sites this year included 8 college campuses where we have a year-round presence and track record of helping low-income students make ends meet.

## PIVOTING THE PROGRAM IN A PANDEMIC

In March, all of the sites were shut down and services moved online. Our volunteer and AmeriCorps team has been actively:



**Phone banking.** More than 250 volunteers have been reaching out to people who have filed with us before, sharing information about filing online, answering questions about the extension date, etc.



**Volunteering online.** No need to let all that tax training and commitment go to waste—nearly half of our volunteers have given their time to help people at [getyourrefund.org](http://getyourrefund.org).

## RACIAL EQUITY MATTERS

People of color are already over-represented in homelessness and poverty in King County because of historical inequities.

Connecting this population to the Earned Income Tax Credit is widely recognized as the single most effective federal antipoverty program. Our team of volunteers speak 54 languages and live and work in the neighborhoods where we provide the service. For more than a decade, donor dollars have allowed us to provide this free service—providing additional income and boosting employment for low-income workers.



Maya and her husband live in Auburn with three children. Maya is caretaker for her disabled father—and handles the family's finances as well. She came to us to file her 2019 taxes, in part to ensure that the family would receive a stimulus check.

Not only will she get a nearly \$10,000 refund—in large part due to the Earned Income Tax Credit—having her taxes filed puts her on track to receive \$1,200 this month.

As the team was reviewing her documents, they noticed an error in her 2016 filing—just days before the 3-year window to correct any errors. After redoing the form, the family is expected to receive an additional \$2,000 refund.



### MOST POPULAR SITES:

- Seattle Public Library—Central Branch
- Federal Way MultiService Center
- Bellevue Hopelink



Tax sites on **8** college campuses this year  
serving **612** students before moving services online.