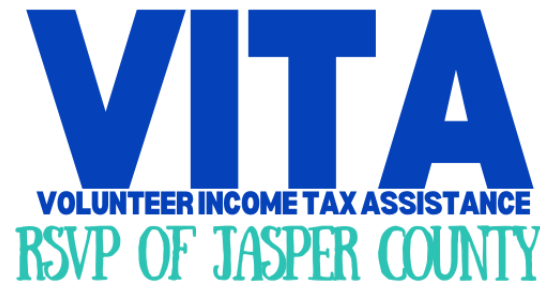


VITA NEWSLETTER

What's this about?

Dear friend of RSVP,
As a client of our tax service, we enjoy seeing you in the season but would like to stay in touch throughout the year. We plan to publish in May, September, and December to inform you about tax news, tax laws, planning suggestions, and important tax dates.



2023 Tax Season Results

VITA program in RSVP of Jasper County served over 900 individuals with more than 650 tax returns. In addition, some folks who were comfortable doing their taxes themselves stopped by with a question or two. Others who don't owe taxes had us confirm they have no obligation, and we sent them on their way.

There is another way to measure success. Our schedulers, greeters, and tax preparers keep returning year after year! They enjoy the challenge and the atmosphere and are willing to help. Our senior member is Bill Harrison, with more than 20 years of service, and Dennis Julius (DJ) is right behind at 18 years of service.

DO I NEED TO FILE MY 2024 TAXES IN TAX SEASON 2025?

If you are wondering, "How much do I have to make to file taxes?". When it comes to filing, your taxable income determines whether you should file a tax return. We will have the threshold amounts in our September issue. However, we would be happy to help you determine if you need to in February 2025. We will start scheduling appointments on January 13th, 2025, and have appointments from February 3rd, 2025, through April 10th, 2025, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We will also be open more Saturdays and Thursdays Evenings to help accommodate work and other life commitments.

About VITA:

Volunteers in Tax Assistance is a nationwide organization that helps train and fund volunteers who help prepare taxes for low-income and moderate-income families. VITA is only one of our partners, along with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Our office is part of Jasper County Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and our tax preparation sponsor is Des Moines Area Community College, which generously allows us to utilize office space.

IOWA RETIREMENT INCOME

As many of you are now aware, the state of Iowa does not tax retirement income such as pensions, IRA's income and so on. If you see that some of your retirement income is being withheld for Iowa tax, you may wish to contact that agency and ask that they stop withholding Iowa state tax. Be careful; your interest and capital gains are not retirement income and can be **taxed**. Next issue, when we talk about itemized deductions, we will discuss Iowa's exemption for health insurance premiums.

DEDUCTIBLE IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

An Individual Retirement Account is a good way to lower your taxes today and save and invest for later years. Most banks and firms that sell stock and bonds can advise you and set up your IRA. You may put away \$7,000 a year TAX FREE if you are 50 years old or younger, and \$8,000 a year to "catch up" if you are over 50. You will pay tax when you are retired, but as the IRA grows you will not pay taxes on capital gains and dividends and interest. Learn more from your financial advisor.

Younger than 50 - \$7,000

50 or older - \$8,000

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Health Savings accounts help families take care of medical expenses with tax free dollars. However, there are limits to the amount that you can contribute:

For 2024 HSA contributions cannot exceed \$4,150 for individual coverage and \$8,300 for a family high deductible health care plan. Many employers are starting to offer HSA's as part of the benefits plan, but it is available to individuals.

STANDARD DEDUCTIONS

A deduction reduces the amount of a taxpayer's income that's subject to tax, generally reducing the amount of tax the individual may have to pay.

Standard Deduction amount has been increased for 2024 for all filers. Amounts are in the table below.

2024 Standard Deduction	
Married Filing Jointly	29,200
Single	14,600
Married Filing Separately	14,600
Head of Household	21,900

Additional deduction, Age 65 or older	
Married or Qualifying Widow	1,550
Single	1,950

Additional deduction, blind (visually impaired)	
Married or Qualifying Widow	1,550
Single	1,950

ANNUAL GIFT TAX EXCEPTION

For 2024, the annual gift tax limit is \$18,000. (That's up \$1,000 from last year's limit since the gift tax is one of many tax amounts adjusted annually for inflation.) For married couples, the combined 2024 limit is \$36,000.

For example, If you are married and have two married children and two grandchildren, you and your spouse can give up to \$36,000 to each of your kids, their spouses, and the grandchildren in 2024 without having to file a gift tax return or pay any tax. This means you can give a total of \$216,000 in tax-free gifts.

Remember: staying under these limits per recipient exempts you from filing a gift tax return for the year. However, the annual limit is time-sensitive, meaning you need to make 2024 gifts before Dec. 31, 2024.

IDENTIFY PREVENTION PIN

An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS. It helps us verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. Even though you may not have a filing requirement, an IP PIN still protects your account.

If you are a confirmed victim of tax-related identity theft and we have resolved your tax account issues, we'll mail you a [CP01A Notice](#) with your new IP PIN each year.

If you don't already have an IP PIN, you may get an IP PIN as a proactive step to protect yourself from tax-related identity theft. Anyone with an SSN or an ITIN can get an IP PIN including individuals living abroad.

How to Apply:

- The fastest way to receive an IP PIN is to request one through your online account. If you don't already have an account on IRS.gov, you must register to validate your identity.
- Spouses and dependents are eligible for an IP PIN if they can pass the identity verification process.
- Once you have opted in and obtained an IP PIN online, you will need to retrieve your IP PIN online each calendar year as a CP01A Notice will not be mailed.
- The IP PIN is generally available in your online account starting in mid-January through mid-November.
- **If you need help applying for an IP-PIN through the online account or want to submit a paper application, please call our office to request an appointment.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you or someone you know interested in being a volunteer? There are so many ways that you can! RSVP of Jasper County has many avenues and paths for helping our community. RSVP is for anyone over the age of 55 to volunteer in their community. Some examples of what RSVP does in Jasper County are listed below:

- School programs (elementary and middle schools)
- VITA
- Jasper County Ride - Free Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (eligibility required for program)
- Newton Siren Reporting
- Salvation Army/ Elderly Nutrition/ Meals on Wheels
- Rent Reimbursement
- And so much more!

Contact Jasmine if you are interested.

How did we do?

We are always interested in your feedback so if you have any suggestions, or would like us to cover a certain subject, please email or call Jasmine Bailey at the ISU Extension and Outreach office. 641 792 6433 or jnbailey@iastate.edu



AmeriCorps
Seniors

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
550 N 2nd Ave W
Newton, IA 50208

VITA

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
RSVP OF JASPER COUNTY

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