



Omaha EITC Coalition
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 14, 2015

Classes Forming for Certified Volunteer Tax Preparation

Omaha, NE—The Omaha Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition announces its volunteer recruitment efforts for the coming 2016 tax season. Volunteers serving as Site Navigators are needed to staff the five Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and various mobile locations in the Omaha metro area to welcome customers, conduct client in-take, and coordinate other services afforded to the public through the tax sites such as financial education seminars, opening bank accounts, and credit reporting. Volunteer Tax Preparers take a thorough training course beginning on September 9, 2015 and must pass certification tests to complete tax returns.

The EITC Coalition coordinates the VITA program for the Internal Revenue Service in Omaha by offering volunteer recruitment and training, staffing the sites, and developing financial services available to the low to moderate income customers who use the VITA sites. The Coalition is composed of organizations and individuals from federal, state and city governments, community social service agencies, businesses, banks, universities and professional associations.

The Coalition is a program of Family Housing Advisory Services, Inc. which offers financial education, housing services, and asset development programs that promote housing and financial stability. The Coalition also celebrates its tenth anniversary of service in 2016. In the last decade, the VITA program has returned over \$92.6 million of value to the community through saved fees, refunds generated, volunteer hours and other services rendered at the sites. More than 450 volunteers have participated in the last decade.

“While many of our volunteers return each year, we always need more people willing to learn. As a volunteer-driven organization, we depend on people willing to give of their time to keep our services free for those who need them the most,” said Ed Leahy, Coalition Director.

Volunteers need not have any prior tax preparation training or experience. The Coalition’s training program is comprehensive and all inclusive. A targeted 24 hour time commitment per month is all that is required after the training period. VITA sites are open from January 25, 2016 through April 15, 2016.

Volunteer Orientations, designed to answer specific questions for interested people, are offered on the following days:

- **Wednesday, August 19 6-7 PM**
- **Saturday, August 22 9-10 AM**

- **Tuesday, August 25 10-11 AM**
- **Monday, August 31 6-7 PM**

All sessions will be held at the Coalition's central office at Family Housing South Omaha, 3605 Q Street.

For those interested in helping families save money at tax time, please contact the Coalition at 402-250-9781 or visit www.omahaeitc.org for more information and an application.

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