



## VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

March 3, 2015

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### ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

### NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

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## UPDATES

**February 27, 2015**

### **Housing and Health Care: A Toolkit for Building Partnerships**

The LeadingAge Center for Housing Plus Services is pleased to announce its new [Housing and Health Partnerships toolkit](#).

The toolkit provides resources and guidance to help providers of affordable senior housing and their health care partners work together to improve health, safety and quality of life for housing residents, while reducing unnecessary use of health services and achieving cost savings. [Click here](#) for more information on the toolkit's content.



## UPDATES

**February 27, 2015**

### **Expanding Business Acumen for CBOs**

The National Coalition on Care Coordination recently released the issue brief Building the Business Case: Community Organizations Responding to the Changing Healthcare Environment for



Aging Populations. The [brief](#) explores how community-based organizations can successfully adapt to changes in the healthcare and social service sectors, and better meet the needs of the growing aging population.



**March 02, 2015**

**ACL Announces New Funding Opportunity for a Paralysis Resource Center**

More than a quarter million Americans are living with spinal cord injuries, and approximately 4 to 5 million Americans are living with paralysis of the extremities. For these individuals and their families, finding and accessing the right long-term services and supports can be a daunting task.

To help address this challenge, ACL is now accepting grant applications for a National Paralysis Resource Center to improve the health and quality of life of individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. Applications are due April 27, 2015. To learn more, click [here](#).



## Environments for Aging Conference

*Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations*

The Environments for Aging Conference, organized by the The Center for Health Design will take place from 19th April to the 21st April 2015 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, USA. The conference will cover areas like Considerations For Effective Aging Environments, Innovative Household Housing Models, Innovations In Design And Planning ,aging In Place Universal Design, Solutions That Enhance The Human Experience. The agenda and registration information is available at <http://www.environmentsforaging.com/conference/efa-2015-agenda>.

## Virginia Caregiver Coalition Meeting March 19

*Kathy Miller, Director of Programs, Division for the Aging*

Have you or someone you care about been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder? You will not want to miss the Thursday, March 19 meeting of the Virginia Caregiver Coalition! Patty Lacey, MBA, COO of the Alzheimer's Association SE VA Chapter will be the guest speaker. Ms. Lacey will be speaking on the EASE program. EASE is an education and support program for people recently diagnosed with early Alzheimer's disease or a related memory disorder, and their families and/or friends.

Attendees can join the meeting at the DARS/Virginia Department for the Aging Conference Room located at 1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100 at 9:15 AM or at one of the following video conference locations:

Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	Julia Trivett Dillon	<a href="mailto:jtrivett@meoc.org">jtrivett@meoc.org</a>
District Three Senior Resources	Sissy Frye	<a href="mailto:sfrye@smyth.net">sfrye@smyth.net</a>
New River Valley Area Agency on Aging	Cassie Mills	<a href="mailto:cmills@nrvaooa.org">cmills@nrvaooa.org</a>
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center	Christian Thomas	<a href="mailto:casemgt@loaa.org">casemgt@loaa.org</a>
DARS Madison	Lynnette Scott	<a href="mailto:Lscott@rrcsb.org">Lscott@rrcsb.org</a>
Fairfax County AAA	Lucy Gerland	<a href="mailto:Lucy.Gerland@FairfaxCounty.gov">Lucy.Gerland@FairfaxCounty.gov</a>
DARS Williamsburg	Christy Jensen	<a href="mailto:cjensen@excellenceinaging.org">cjensen@excellenceinaging.org</a>
Peninsula Agency on Aging	Judy Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:sw3@paainc.org">sw3@paainc.org</a>

A limited number of individuals may phone into the meeting. For further information, please contact Sharon Brandau, VCC Chair at [swdirector@paainc.org](mailto:swdirector@paainc.org)



## Introducing Kurt Sprenger

*Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations*



Kurt Sprenger, Ph.D., a full-time employee of DARS, will be splitting his time with the Division on Aging. Kurt has been with DARS since 2002. He works extensively in SPSS and has been responsible for producing, developing, and reporting output and outcome measures for Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. Kurt has a Ph.D in Vocational-Technical Education from Virginia Tech. Previous education includes a Master of Science in Geo-Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University. Kurt Sprenger will be working with VDA to apply his experience with large data sets to the aging analytics initiative and developing performance measure reporting.

## Free Tax Preparation Sites/Online and EITC (Attachment)

*Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations*

**IRS Resources:** <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>

### Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

**\*Note: available services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the tax law expertise required for your return.**

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.



Before going to a VITA or TCE site, see [Publication 3676-B](#) for services provided and check out the [What to Bring](#) page to ensure you have all the required documents and information our volunteers will need to help you. \*Note: available services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the tax law expertise required for your return.

***[Find a VITA or TCE Site Near You](#)***

***<http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep>***

VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, use the VITA Locator Tool or call **800-906-9887**.

At select tax sites, taxpayers also have an option to prepare their own basic federal and state tax return for free using Web-based tax preparation software with an IRS-certified volunteer to help guide you through the process. This option is only available at locations that list “Self-Prep” in the site listing.

**When using the locator tool, you will exit IRS.gov and open Google Maps if you need directions to a specific location.**

***[Find an AARP TCE Tax-Aide Site Near You](#)***

***<http://www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action>***

A majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation’s Tax Aide program. To locate the nearest AARP TCE Tax-Aide site between January and April use the AARP Site Locator Tool or call **888-227-7669**.

***[My Free Taxes - Online self preparation with national helpline assistance](#)***

***<http://www.myfreetaxes.com>***

MyFreeTaxes provides **free online** (with helpline assistance) for federal and state tax preparation and filing assistance to taxpayers and families earning \$60,000 or less in 2014. To find free tax sites: Click on [Free Tax Filing in Your Area](#); enter zip code you will see a list of the IRS/VITA sites and the My Free Taxes Sites.

**Virginia DSS Resource Page: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/eitc.cgi>**

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

**About EITC** EITC is a federal tax credit for low-to-middle income working individuals and families. To qualify you must file an income tax return - even if the IRS doesn't require filing taxes for your income level. If you qualify for EITC, you also qualify to have your taxes prepared for free.

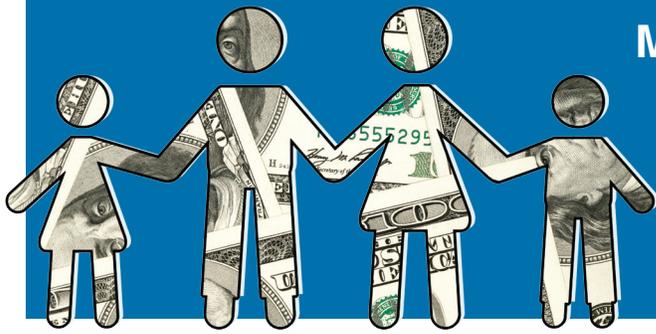


The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits. In most cases, EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), SNAP, low-income housing or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

- [2014 EITC Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- [IRS EITC television spot \(video\) \(HTM\)](#)
- [IRS EITC television spot spanish \(video\) \(MHT\)](#)
- [More EITC Resources \(Web page\)](#)

\*\* This line on the EITC flyer needs to be corrected:

The VITA Return Preparation Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) threshold amount for Tax Year 2014 is ~~\$51,000~~ **\$53,000** or less



# MAXIMUM EARNINGS TO QUALIFY FOR EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) TAX YEAR 2014



## What is Earned Income?

Earned income includes all the taxable income and wages you get from working.

There are two ways to get earned income.

- 1 You work for someone who pays you, or
- 2 you work in a business you own or run.

Taxable earned income includes:

- Wages, salaries, tips, and other taxable employee pay;
- Union strike benefits;
- Long-term disability benefits received prior to minimum retirement age;
- Net earnings from self-employment if
  - you own or operate a business, or
  - you are a minister or member of a religious order (see Special Rules\* for more information);
- Gross income received as a statutory employee.

The VITA Return Preparation Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) threshold amount for Tax Year 2014 is \$51,000 or less.

 <b>Earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must each be less than:</b>		<b>if married filing jointly:</b>	<b>you may be eligible for a credit of up to...</b>
<b>3 or more qualifying children</b>	▼ <b>\$46,997</b>	▼ <b>\$52,427</b>	▲ <b>\$6,143</b>
<b>2 qualifying children</b>	▼ <b>\$43,756</b>	▼ <b>\$49,186</b>	▲ <b>\$5,460</b>
<b>1 qualifying child</b>	▼ <b>\$38,511</b>	▼ <b>\$43,941</b>	▲ <b>\$3,305</b>
<b>no qualifying children</b>	▼ <b>\$14,590</b>	▼ <b>\$20,020</b>	▲ <b>\$496</b>

**Child Tax Credit is up to \$1000 per qualifying dependent child**

**Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits are worth up to \$2,100**

**Investment income must be \$3,350 or less for the tax year**

### \*For special EITC information related to:

- Non-Taxable Combat Pay Election
- Members Of The Clergy
- Those Receiving Disability Benefits
- Individuals Or Families Impacted By Disasters

call: 1-800-829-1040 or online visit: [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc)

### Examples Of Income That Is Not Considered Earned:

- Pay received for work while an inmate in a penal institution
- Interest and dividends
- Retirement Income
- Social Security
- Unemployment benefits
- Alimony
- Child support

## [IRS EITC Home Page--It's easier than ever to find out if you qualify for EITC](#)

### Legal Same-Sex Marriages Will Be Recognized for Federal Tax Purposes

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service recently ruled that same-sex couples, legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages, will be treated as married for federal tax purposes. Under the ruling, same-sex couples will be treated as married for all federal tax purposes where marriage is a factor,

including filing status, claiming personal and dependency exemptions, taking the standard deduction, employee benefits, contributing to an IRA and **claiming the earned income tax credit** or child tax credit.

The ruling implements federal tax aspects of the June 26 Supreme Court decision invalidating a key provision of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. [Read more here.](#)

If you qualify for the EITC you can **get your taxes done for free** by certified IRS tax preparers at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. **Call 2-1-1 to find a VITA site near you.**