

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Free Tax Prep for Working Families and Individuals Making Less than \$54,884 a Year**

Program runs from February 1 through April 15

**(WESTCHESTER) January 24, 2019**— The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board (WPWDB) will host an IRS endorsed “Volunteer Income Tax Assistance” (VITA) Program Kickoff event on Friday, February 1, at 11:45am at 130 Mount Vernon Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY.

The kickoff launches an educational campaign to increase awareness to eligible Westchester County residents about the free tax prep assistance available, and the qualifications to receive federal tax credits designed to help low income taxpayers making less than \$54,884 a year.

The VITA program, which will run February 1 to April 15 at seven locations (see below), helps low- and moderate-income individuals and families eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) file their taxes and maximize their returns. To make sure the program delivers maximum benefits, VITA relies on dedicated volunteers to act as greeters, assist with translation and call-center operations. Tax preparation is done by IRS-certified volunteers.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “We are committed to helping our residents take advantage of all the tax credits for which they are eligible. The VITA program not only assists working families and individuals, but also increases tax dollars in the County. It is estimated that about 80% of refunds are then spent locally, which generates local sales, wages and jobs, ultimately boosting the local economy.”

**Call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 to make an appointment, or visit one of seven locations listed at [www.westchesterputnamonestop.com](http://www.westchesterputnamonestop.com).**

**The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a federal tax credit available to working families and individuals with modest incomes. Many eligible Westchester residents are not aware of the credit and therefore do not claim it. Maximum credits depend on income, marital status and number of dependents. Each year New York State sets threshold limits at the beginning of the tax preparation season (see below for 2018 limits).

**VITA Free Tax Prep Program Runs from February 1 through April 15**

Volunteer tax preparer and Spanish translator assistance runs from February 1 through April 15 and is available at the sites below. The last appointment dates are listed by each location. Call 211 or (800) 899-1479 to make an appointment at one of the Westchester County VITA/EITC Tax Assistance locations.

**Free Tax Prep Locations**

**White Plains:** White Plains Career Center, 120 Bloomingdale Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
February 2 – April 13, 2019. Tuesday & Thursday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Languages: English, Spanish

Last Day: April 13 | last open appt 12pm

**Dobbs Ferry:** Mercy College, 555 Broadway, Victory Hall, Room 100 (formerly Our Lady of Victory HS)

Saturdays: February 2 to March 23, April 6 & April 13, 2019; Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Note: Site not in operation 3/30

Sundays: February 17, February 24, March 3, March 10 and March 17; Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Languages: English

Last Day: March 17 | last open appt 12pm

**Mount Vernon:** Mount Vernon Career Center, 130 Mount Vernon Avenue

February 1 – April 12, 2019. Wednesday & Friday: 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Languages: English

Last Day: April 12 | last open appt 4pm

**Valhalla:** Westchester Community College Gateway Center, 75 Grassland Road, Gateway Building across from parking lot #1.

February 4 – April 15, 2019. Mondays & Wednesdays: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Languages: English, Spanish

Note: Walk-ins are for WCC students only

Last Day: April 15 | last open appt 4pm

**Yonkers:** SUNY Westchester Educational Opportunity Center, 26 South Broadway

February 5 – April 11, 2019. Tuesdays & Thursdays: Noon – 8 p.m.

Winter Break Dates: February 19 & 21: Noon – 5 p.m.

Languages: English, Spanish

**Bronx:** Mercy College Bronx Campus, 1200 Waters Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 1344

Fridays: 2/1, 2/8, 2/22, 3/1, 3/15, 3/22, 4/5 and 4/12; Hours: 11 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Note: Site is not in operation 2/15 or 3/29

Languages: English, Spanish

Last Day: April 12 | last open appt 4pm

**Ossining:** IFCA Housing Network, 138 Spring Street, Ossining, NY 10562

Dates/Times: February 4 to April 15 | Appt. only

Monday: 12 – 3 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday: 1 – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Saturday: 12 – 3 p.m.

Last Day: April 15 | last open appt. 2 p.m.

Ossining High School

Monday: 4pm–7pm (Walk-ins)

### Who Qualifies for EITC?

The potential maximum tax credit includes federal, state and New York City credits and depends on income, marital status and number of qualifying children in the household. Qualifying children can be a son, daughter, grandchild, adopted child, step child or foster child as long as the child is under 19 years of age, under the age of 24 if a full-time student, or be permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year. The child must have the same principal residence as the taxpayer for more than half the tax year and not provide more than one-half of his/her own support for the year.

#### Single (ages 25-65)

With no children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$15,270; Maximum tax credit: \$519

With one child: Maximum income to be eligible: \$40,320; Maximum tax credit: \$3,461

With 2 children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$45,802; Maximum tax credit: \$5,716

With 3 or more children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$49,194; Maximum tax credit: \$6,431

#### Married/filing jointly (ages 25-65)

With no children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$20,950; Maximum tax credit: \$519

With one child: Maximum income to be eligible: \$46,010; Maximum tax credit: \$3,461

With 2 children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$51,492; Maximum tax credit: \$5,716

With 3 or more children: Maximum income to be eligible: \$54,884; Maximum tax credit: \$6,431

**THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WPWDB)** is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the “Career Center Network” to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices. The “Network” is made up of four Career Centers (White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel) as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults and employers. For more information, visit [www.westchesterputnamonestop.com](http://www.westchesterputnamonestop.com).

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**WESTCHESTER COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, The Office of Economic Development works to improve the County's economic well-being and quality of life. This includes a broad range of activities to attract, create and retain jobs, and to foster a resilient, pro-growth and inclusive economy. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)

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