

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
June 26, 2023

Contact: Erin Strawn
515-447-0004
estrawn@TheIowaCenter.org



IOWA CENTER’S VITA PROGRAM RECOGNIZED WITH “HERO OF THE TAXPAYER” AWARD BY IRS

Des Moines, Iowa – The Iowa Center announced that the organization’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program was recognized as a “Hero of the Taxpayer” by the US Internal Revenue Service. This award recognizes The Iowa Center’s innovative and progressive thinking to create a VITA service model that can be emulated nationwide.

“Under the leadership of Karla Evans, Director of Tax Services, The Iowa Center has grown and enhanced the statewide VITA program. We are incredibly proud of The Iowa Center’s success in expanding access to tax preparation services for low-income Iowans, particularly in rural communities in Iowa,” said Megan Milligan, President + CEO of The Iowa Center. “Karla’s passion for serving Iowa’s taxpayers is critical to our success in demonstrating our commitment to VITA as a cause, not just a program.”

The Iowa Center is the leader of the Iowa Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Coalition which provides free income tax preparation services for low-income individuals. In 2023, The Iowa VITA Coalition included 24 partners with 562 volunteers across 74 sites who make tax preparation services available statewide. The Iowa Center and our coalition partners filed 12,629 returns for low income Iowans who received over \$17 million in state and federal tax refunds. The Coalition is funded in part by support from the IRS and Iowa Health and Human Services.

The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that delivers three lines of direct services to empower entrepreneurs to launch or grow their small businesses: Business Coaching, Credit + Lending, and Tax Services. Iowa Center services are available to all entrepreneurs, but many clients seek The Iowa Center’s support to overcome an obstacle in the marketplace: 72% of The Iowa Center’s clients are low-to-moderate income; 71% are women; and 35% are people of color. The Iowa Center’s services are available to clients at low to no cost thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Learn more about The Iowa Center at www.TheIowaCenter.org.