

NEWS RELEASE
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IOWA CENTER KICKS OFF VITA TAX FILING SEASON *Highlights Importance of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)*

Des Moines, Iowa – The Iowa Center announced the kickoff of tax season for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and celebrated Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day. Through the VITA Program, The Iowa Center offers free income tax preparation for low income individuals, families, and small businesses at 14 tax sites, including six tax sites serving the Des Moines metropolitan area, and a site in Muscatine. Appointments and walk-in options will be available at these sites until April 15. Tax appointments are available year-round at The Iowa Center headquarters.

“VITA tax filing is a pathway for Iowans to secure all of the tax refunds that they deserve in order to catch up on bills, provide for their families, and invest in their financial futures,” said Karla Evans, Director of Tax Services at The Iowa Center. “VITA also helps Iowans access the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average EITC refund in Iowa is \$2,311, and every EITC dollar claimed generates up to \$2 in local economic activity. Unfortunately, nearly 20 percent of eligible Iowans do not access the EITC refund, so more awareness of VITA and the EITC benefit is needed.”

The Iowa Center is the leader of the Iowa VITA Coalition which provides free income tax preparation services for low-income individuals, families and small businesses. The Iowa Center oversees 22 partners who make tax preparation services available at 80 sites statewide. The Coalition is funded in part by support from the IRS, Iowa Health and Human Services, and United Way of Central Iowa. For information about VITA locations and schedules, what to bring to a VITA appointment, and online appointment scheduling visit www.TheIowaCenter.org/taxservices.

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.