



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Tax Assistance Provided to Low-Income Wage Earners

(Woodland, CA) – This year, low-income wage earners in Yolo County were offered free help in filing State and Federal income tax returns during the tax season through the Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services. The service is provided annually to low-income wage earners by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) specialists who have been trained by the Internal Revenue Service. This year, 10 VITA specialists, with help from support staff, provided assistance on 328 State and Federal tax returns, resulting in a total of \$206,502 in Earned Income Tax Credit and \$548,473 in refunds to low-income wage earners.

VITA specialists, all volunteers, helped qualified taxpayers with special credits, such as the Child Tax Credit (families may qualify for a Child Tax Credit refund even though they owe no income tax) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a Federal income tax credit for those who work but who are not high wage earners. Those who qualify can receive a tax credit of up to \$4,700 a year.

“This year, we saw a 45% increase in returns processed, with a 48% increase in refunds received,” said Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services Director Pam Miller. “This is remarkable considering we had few VITA specialists assisting this year.”

The Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services was able to fund the VITA efforts, including the training the volunteers in tax preparation, data collection and reporting to the State, and to provide EITC outreach and marketing in the community through an EITC grant. Partner agencies included RISE, Inc. and the Yolo Family Resource Center. The Yolo County Department of Employment & Social Services hired VITA staff through the Workforce Investment Act program and trained and paid for them through the Work Experience program.

“We are grateful to our partner agencies, RISE, Inc. and the Yolo Family Resource Center, for working with us to provide this important service to low-income wage earners in our community,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “We are especially thankful for the efforts of the VITA volunteers who helped so many Yolo County families and individuals in such a significant way this tax season.”

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