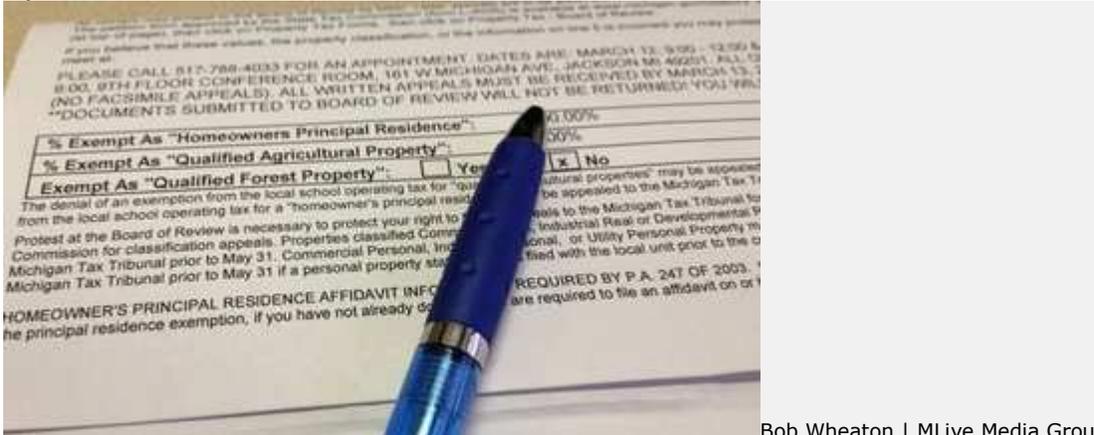




## Free tax preparations at Jackson-area DHS office for households earning up to \$50,000

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By **Lauren Gentile**



Bob Wheaton | MLive Media Group

JACKSON -- The Community Action Agency's free volunteer income tax assistance program is offering help to Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee county residents who earn up to \$50,000. The free tax services will be available from 9 a.m. to noon March 30 at the Department of Human Services in Jackson, 301 E. Louis Glick Highway. Diane Bach says this is one of their many mobile site locations for this tax season. "We like to travel and bring the service closer to those who need it," Bach said. Bach said because there are many traveling preparation sites according to Bach she advises calling the office to find one located nearest to you.

### What to bring to an appointment

- Social Security Cards for self, spouse and dependents
- State-issued Photo Identification (Driver License/State ID Card)
- All income forms – W-2, 1099, Social Security, DHS, Unemployment Statement, etc.
- Copy of last year's tax return, if available
- Receipts for Education expenses.
- Total Rent for 2011 and landlords' names and addresses
- Total Heat Expenses for 2011 – copy of recent gas/fuel bill
- Property Tax Statement showing Summer & Winter Taxes
- Any documentation for itemized deductions (child care, mortgage interest, etc.)
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit

Residents who receive Social Security, SSI or veteran benefits, or who are college students, seniors and residents whose income is below \$50,000 are encouraged to use the free service. "This service is to help residents meet their legal obligations and get the credits and refunds they are eligible for," Bach said. IRS-certified volunteers will prepare and help e-file federal, state and city returns along with child tax credit, earned income tax credit, home heating credit and property tax credit. "The volunteers go through a thorough training and testing to ensure they know how to file the returns and taxes," Bach said.

In 2011, the program assisted over 5,800 residents in the three counties, Bach said. She hopes more are helped this year. "We helped many low- to mid-income families, disabled and seniors who are not comfortable doing it for themselves," she said. "This is just a great option and service for them."

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 211; for Jackson County, 800-491-0004; for Hillsdale, 800-438-1845; and Lenawee, 800-438-1845.

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