



Community Action Agency provides free tax filing service for households that earned \$52,000 or less



By [Lisa Satayut | Lsatayut@mlive.com](#)
[Follow on Twitter](#)

on January 30, 2014 at 4:00 PM, updated January 30, 2014 at 4:08 PM



Patricia Baker smiles as she talks to volunteer Alex Keppeler about her income taxes on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. (Michelle Tessier | MLive.com)

What should I bring to my appointment?
Social Security Care (or SS statement) for self, spouse, and dependents
State-issued Photo Identification (Driver's License or State ID)
All income forms: W-2's, 1099s, Social Security, DHS, unemployment statement, etc.
Copy of last year's tax return, if available
Receipts for education expenses
Total Rent for 2013 and all landlords' names and addresses
Total Heat expense for 2013 (deliverable fuels) or copy of recent gas/fuel bill.
Property Tax Statement showing summer and winter taxes (if client owns home)
Any documentation for itemized deductions (child care expenses, mortgage interest, etc.)
Bank routing number for direct deposit (debit cards will not work)

JACKSON, MI— As a single father working towards his master's degree, saving a few hundred dollars on filing his tax returns means putting more food on the table for his 11-year-old daughter. For the past three years, Summit Township resident Derry Petty had certified tax volunteers at the [Community Action Agency](#) file his state and federal taxes free of charge through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. "Being in college with a limited income...it's rough," Petty,39, said.

The CAA provides the free service to households that earned \$52,000 or less in 2013, according to

Jessie Murray, spokeswoman for the agency.

All taxes and credits are e-filed. In 2012, the agency helped 3,900 households in Jackson County secure close to \$5 million collectively in refunds and credits, Murray said. The CAA offers the free service at different locations around the county. One is the Ayieko Resource Center, 410 E. High St. Petty arrived at the center about 30 minutes before his 10 a.m. appointment on Thursday, Jan. 30. He used the wait time to double-check his paperwork and get some studying done.

"I know the routine," he said of bringing the required paperwork to his appointment. Petty will receive educational credits on top of his return and plans to graduate in April from Eastern Michigan University.

Volunteers will prepare federal, state and city (if applicable) taxes along with tax credits including: earned income tax credit; home heating credit; child tax credit, and homestead property tax credit.

Senior citizens also are encouraged to use this free service, even if they think they don't have to file federal tax returns, because they might be missing out on state credits, Murray said. The CAA also serves residents in Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties. Since 2004, more than \$47 million in refunds and credits have been brought to Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties.

To make an appointment, call 517-784-4800 or 800-491-0004. The office is open from 8 a.m. to



5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are available day, evening and weekend.

Volunteer Alex Keppeler explains the details of Patricia Baker's tax forms to her as he helps her fill out her income taxes on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. "I'm weird, I like doing taxes," said Keppeler, who has been volunteering to help fill out tax forms for three years. (Michelle Tessier | MLive.com)



Volunteer Fred Trexler, left, helps Wendy Thomas, of Jackson, fill out her tax forms on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. "It's free and convenient and the people are nice here," said Thomas, who said she has been receiving help with her taxes at the resource center for

three to four years. "I've never had a bad experience here." (Michelle Tessier | MLive.com)



Patricia Baker laughs as volunteer Alex Keppeler helps her fill out her income taxes on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. "I'm weird, I like doing taxes," said Keppeler, who has been volunteering to help fill out tax forms for three years. (Michelle

Tessier | MLive.com)



Volunteer Fred Trexler chats with Wendy Thomas, of Jackson, as he helps her fill out her tax forms on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. "My reward is seeing the e-files created successfully and getting refunds for people," said

Trexler, who was a physics professor for 31 years. (Michelle Tessier | MLive.com)



Volunteer Alex Keppeler helps Patricia Baker fill out her income taxes on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Ayieko Resource Center at 410 East High Street in Jackson. The Community Action Agency helps senior citizens and people who make under \$52,000 per year with their income taxes. (Michelle Tessier | MLive.com)