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IRS announces Mich. recipients

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Detroit, Mich. — The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced it has awarded more than \$330,000 in matching grants to support its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in Michigan.

Under the VITA Grant Program, the IRS awarded matching grants to six organizations in Michigan that will offer free tax preparation services during the 2011 filing season.

“These funds will enhance the VITA program and the work of volunteer tax preparers who provide an invaluable service to thousands of taxpayers each year,” said John Crawford, IRS Spokesperson.

The funds will be used to:

Enable VITA programs to extend services to underserved populations and hardest to reach areas, both urban and non-urban

Increase the capacity to file returns electronically

Heighten quality control and improve the accuracy of returns prepared by the VITA sites

Enhance training of volunteers

There was a strong response to the 2011 VITA grant program with 374 organizations submitting applications requesting more than \$33 million in matching funds. More than \$11 million in matching grants were awarded to 177 organizations that will offer free tax preparation services at locations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

VITA partners are organizations that provide free federal tax return preparation and electronic filing to low and moderate income individuals. For tax year 2010, individuals and families with an adjusted gross income of \$49,000 or lower are eligible for assistance.

The VITA program has enjoyed tremendous support since it was created in 1969. For example, more than 3 million tax returns were prepared at over 12,000 locations nationally during the 2010 filing season by volunteers working under either the VITA program or the Tax Counseling for the Elderly, another volunteer program sponsored by IRS.

Michigan recipients

Accounting Aid Society, Detroit, \$100,000

Communicating Arts Credit Union, Highland Park, \$9,000

Community Action Agency, Jackson, \$91,675

Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan, Battle Creek, \$51,500

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc., Traverse City, \$30,000

United Way of Genesee County, Flint, \$50,000

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