

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Grant Program

Helping YOU Help OTHERS



IRS

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

VITA Grant

Established by Congress

Congress appropriated additional funds to IRS to establish and administer year two of the VITA Grant.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Grant Program

The purpose of the grant program is to provide direct funds to:

- Enable VITA programs to extend services to under served populations and hardest-to-reach areas, both urban and non-urban;
- Increase the capacity to file returns electronically;
- Heighten quality control;
- Enhance training of volunteers; and
- Significantly improve the accuracy rate of returns prepared by VITA sites.

Note: In addition to the VITA Grant, IRS offers a Tax Counseling for the Elderly cooperative agreement that primarily serves elderly individuals. See Publication 1101 for more detailed information and requirements if your organization is interested in providing service primarily to the elderly.

Helping You Help Others

The targeted under served populations in YOUR community may include:

- Low-income (in general)
- Low-income limited English proficient
- Low-income elderly
- Low-income disabled
- Low-income Native Americans
- Low-income non-urban

The definition of low-income is based on the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) amount for that year.

Matching Funds

Applicants must provide matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all VITA grant funds received.

Acceptable matching funds consist of: cash, computer hardware and software, and third party in-kind contributions.

Funds from other federal grants cannot be counted as matching funds.

Eligibility Criteria

Highlights of the eligibility criteria include:

- Be classified as one of the following:
 1. A private or public non-profit organization qualifying for tax exemption under IRC 501;
 2. A state or local government agency, including Native American Tribal governments; or
 3. A regional, statewide, or local coalition with one lead organization that meets one of the eligibility criteria stated above.
- **Must be** in compliance with federal tax filing and payment requirements;
- Must not be debarred or suspended from Federal contracts, grants or cooperative agreements.
- Must provide documentation to substantiate matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis to grant funds requested.

A detailed list of the eligibility requirements can be found in Publication 4671, *VITA Grant Program Overview and Application Package*.

Apply Early

Time Line



- Application period:
6/1/2009 – 7/17/2009
- Application deadline:
7/17/2009
- Review and ranking of applications:
7/17/2009 – 10/30/2009
- Notification of selection
10/30/2009
- Funds available for use by:
12/1/2009

Get in on the ground floor!

The application package,
Publication 4671, will be
available starting in June 2009.

Visit **IRS.gov**

Search keyword:
VITA Grant

to find the grant application and
other related information to assist
you in applying for a VITA Grant

Contact the grant office at:

Grant.Program.Office@irs.gov

IRS-SPEC
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Atlanta, GA 30308