
Broadband and Civic Empowerment Curriculum

Session 3: Tax Preparation & Financial Security

Prepared by

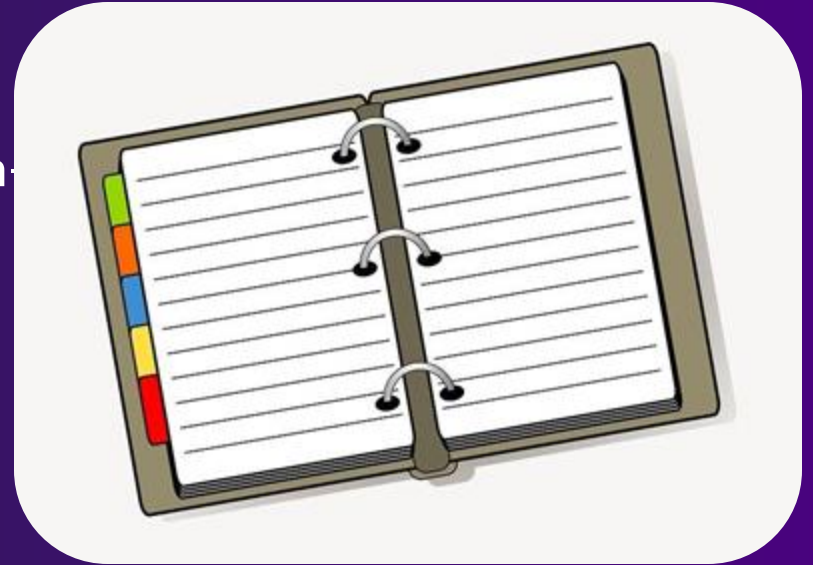
- University of Illinois - Community Data Clinic
- Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office
- Housing Authority of Champaign County
- Project Success of Vermilion County
- Urbana Public Library

Session Outline

Purpose	General questions	Activities / Research technique
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess participant's broadband interests and experiences in tax preparation and personal finances ● Get a better sense of what community members need? Or new programs to share with them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The last time you made a significant expense? How did you plan it? Did you use any internet resources to make a budget or follow these expenses? ● How do you prepare your taxes? Does someone in your household help you with it? ● Are you familiar with credit scores? Have you ever checked or used your credit score? ● Do you use any kind of app, website, or device to access personal finances, budgeting or tax preparation? ● What failures/challenges are you experiencing with these services? ● Do you use social media to know about personal finances? ● Are there any programs or services you would recommend to other community members? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semi-structured interview with guided questions ● Present the resource to the participant. ● Have you ever used this resource?

Session Agenda

1. Check-in from previous meeting
2. Review Resources
 - a. Tax Preparation
 - b. Tax Information / Services for Non-English Speakers
 - c. Financial Management
 - d. Additional Resources
 - Financial Budgeting
 - How to Avoid Scams
3. Announcements for next meeting



Tax Preparation Resources



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program | Salt and Light

About:

- Starting February 1st
- The University of Illinois' VITA program offers FREE tax assistance. Potential donation requested by service administration. Please verify
 - Low- to moderate-income (gross income less than \$60,000),
 - Elderly (over age 60),
 - Limited English speaking taxpayers
 - Those with disabilities.

Location:

- Salt & Light (1819 Philo Road, Urbana)

Contact information

- Call 217-300-4784
- Email vita@business.illinois.edu.
- Website: <https://giesbusiness.illinois.edu/accountancy/vita-program>

Do You Have?

- ✓ Photo ID for yourself and your spouse
(your spouse must be present if you plan to file a joint return)
- ✓ Social security cards or ITIN letters for yourself, your spouse, and all dependents
- ✓ All tax forms you received such as Form W-2 and Form 1099
- ✓ Form 1098-T if you are a college student
- ✓ Real estate taxes paid and PIN number if you own your home



Gies Business





Tax-Aide, Senior Services of Champaign County

About

- Service is offered yearly February 1 - April 18.
- Free service can answer most of the tax issues faced by middle- and low-income taxpayers
- Ages 60 and older.
- Volunteers are trained by the IRS, through a Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) grant.
- Multiple Locations in IL

Service Location Finder:

- https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html

Champaign Main Public Library

- Tue, Thur, Friday 09:15 AM - 04:30 PM
- Saturday 09:15 am - 01:00 pm
- 200 W Green St, Champaign, IL, 61820
- Appointment Required | Call (217) 359-6500

Rantoul Public Library

- Mon, Thur 9 AM -12 PM, 1 PM - 4PM
- 106 W Flessner Ave, Rantoul, IL, 61866
- Appointment Required | Call (217) 893-3955

Decatur Macon County Senior Center

- Mon - Friday 8:30 am - 12 PM
- 1430 N 22nd St, Decatur, IL, 62526-5106
- Appointment Required | Call (217)429-1239

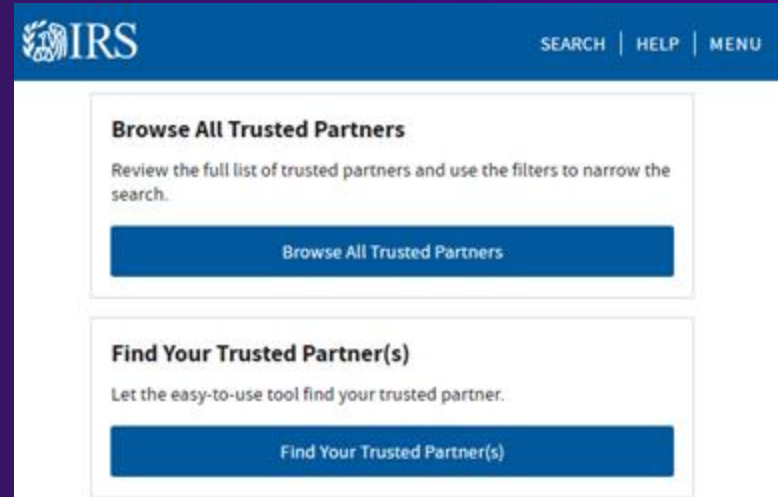
IRS Free File Guided Tax Preparation Options

About

- Do your taxes online for free with an IRS Free File provider.
- If your adjusted gross income (AGI) was \$73,000 or less, review each provider's offer to make sure you qualify.
- Some offers include a free state tax return.

What you Need

- Income statements like W2s or 1099s
- Adjustments to income
- Dependent and spouse information, if applicable
- Prior Year AGI or Prior Year Self-Select PIN



Browse All Service Providers

- <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/browse-all-offers/>

IRS Free File Online Lookup Tool

- <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/general/>

Tax information/ Services for Non-English Speakers

The Refugee Center | Centro de Refugiados

Services Provided

1. **Social Services**
 - a. Case Management and Counseling
 - b. Tutoring and opportunities for children
 - c. Health Education Programs
2. **Mediation Services**
 - a. Provides an interpreter for you job, doctor visit, school appointments, etc.
 - b. Help applying for government benefits
3. **Language Assistance**
 - a. Help with paperwork for citizenship, asylum, residency and other immigration issues
 - b. Translations in English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Russian, Cantonese, Mandarin



- **Location:**
 - 201 West Kenyon Road, Suite 4D
Champaign, IL United States 61820
- **Email:** admin@ecirmac.org
- **Phone:** 217-344-8455
- **Office open** 9am-5pm M-F or by appointment
- **Website:** <https://www.therefugeecenter-cu.org/>

EL IRS en Español

Ayudando a las personas a entender y a cumplir con sus responsabilidades tributarias

¿Cómo le podemos ayudar?

- Declare Sus Impuestos Gratis
- Inicie la sesión a su cuenta
- Obtenga el estado de su reembolso
- Haga un pago
- Ordene su transcripción
- Encuentre los formularios y las instrucciones

Website: <https://www.irs.gov/es>

Financial Management Resources

A collage of financial management resources. In the foreground, a black calculator with yellow function keys (CE, ON/C) is visible. To its right, a pair of glasses rests on a notepad with the words 'FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT' written in blue ink. A pen lies diagonally across the bottom. The background features a blue bar chart and a pie chart with segments labeled with percentages: 5%, 4%, and 8%.

Why is credit score important?

4 Credit Score Myths

How Your Credit Score Affects Your Buying Power

The higher your credit score, the lower your interest rate, and ultimately your monthly mortgage payment.

FICO® Score	APR	Monthly Payment
760-850	4.170%	\$1,462
620-639	5.759%	\$1,752

30-year fixed-rate / \$300,000 loan

Excellent
800-850

Very Good
740-799

Good
670-739

Fair
580-669

Very Bad
300-579

THINGS TO AVOID NOT TO DAMAGE YOUR CREDIT

1. Do not miss payments
2. Do not overspend with credit
3. Positive credit history cards are better not to close
4. Do not apply for loans too often
5. Do not rely on credit cards to much



| Money Matters Financial Education Classes

About:

- Heartland Bank Money Matters Program has classes to assist you in building or repairing your personal credit.

In-person Class Dates ([link here](#))

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission -
1776 E. Washington St.

- Tuesday, Feb 20 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Tuesday, May 28 5:30 – 7:00pm

(Peoria, IL) METEC – 2605 W. Krause Ave.

- Tuesday, Feb 13 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Tuesday, March 12 5:30 – 7:00pm

Online Classes

- [Sign-up link](#)
- Tuesday, Jan 30th 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Tuesday, Feb 27 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Tuesday, March 26 5:30 – 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 30th 5:30 – 7:00pm

Contact information

- Cal(217) 378-7100 (Ext 5061)

Website: <https://www.hbtbank.com/money-matters-financial-education-classes#champaign>

Other Resources:

FDIC Financial Education Center

- Topics
 - Buying a Home
 - Borrowing Basics
 - Managing Debt
 - Building Savings

Website:

<https://playmoneysmart.fdic.gov/games>



Credit Repair/Builder Loan Program

- Money Matters Small Dollar Loan Program at Heartland Bank
- Building or repairing individuals' personal credit
- Loans ranges between \$500 and \$1,500
- Credit is built as on-time monthly payments
- Requirements:
 - Designed for a single borrower only.
 - Proof of identity, address, and 6 months verifiable income.
 - Certificate of Completion from a Money Matters Financial Education Class
 - Money Matters Financial Education Class: A 1.5-hour class offered online as well as in-person in Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago (completamente en español), Peoria
- More information: <https://www.hbtbank.com/credit-repair-builder-loan-program>

Chime Credit Builder

Chime Credit Builder Secured Visa® Credit Card

1. No annual fee or interest
2. No credit check to apply
3. No minimum security deposit required
4. Build your Credit by Daily purchases
5. Build a better future.
6. Apply Online through Link below.

[Open Secured Credit Card to Build Credit | Chime](#)





Monthly series of **six free webinars** on improving financial well-being. Registration is Must.

- Psychology of money,
- Cost of debt,
- Understanding credit,
- Strategies for debt repayment, Saving strategies, and keys to financial security in a non-judgmental environment.
- Via Zoom monthly on **Wednesdays at 11am (CST) from February 14 – July 10.**
- Continuing Education Units Available! Emily Harmon, ebaine@illinois.edu.

[Money Basics \(illinois.edu\)](https://illinois.edu/money-basics)



MyCommunity Home Loan

- Assist individuals who may not qualify for traditional banking products but hope to own a home
- Special loan terms and qualifications to build a record of payment, as well as benefits for the mortgage process.
- Lower down payment requirements
- No mortgage insurance premiums
- Do not need to be first-time homebuyer
- Compatible with down payment assistance programs and gift from a family member
- Eligibility:
 - The borrower and co-borrower must complete homebuyer education.
 - Total annual household income must be below 80% of the HUD income limits, or home must be in the low-to-moderate income communities.
- <https://www.busey.com/mortgage/products-and-services/mycommunity-home-loan>



- A non-profit organization formed in 1974 with a mission to provide consumers with the financial education and debt relief options needed to ensure they are on the right path to financial freedom.
- Focused on Credit Building, Debt Relief, and Housing Assistance
- FREE debt analysis and talk with a financial coach for:
 - Review participant finances.
 - Discuss debt relief options
 - Create an action plan
- Call to 1 (800) 431 – 8157

<https://credit.org/>

Credit Karma Free Credit Monitor

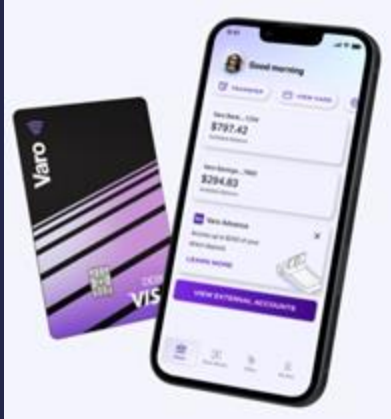
- Get FREE credit monitoring on your mobile or laptop
- Receive notifications when important changes to your credit reports happen.
- Spot errors, inconsistencies or signs of identity theft on your credit reports
- Find assistance to dispute errors on your credit report
- Receive alerts if your information has been exposed in a data breach
- Works for Equifax or TransUnion but not FICO



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<https://www.creditkarma.com/credit-monitoring>

Easy Banking: Varo Bank



- All-mobile bank account app
- Education service for adults/families
 - Smart Money Basics
 - Owning a Home
 - Small Business Essentials



No credit check



No minimum balance



No monthly fees



No overdraft fees — we help you spend only what you have¹



55k+ fee-free Allpoint ATMs in places you already shop at: Target, CVS, and Safeway²

<https://www.varomoney.com>

Passbook



Passbook is a new way to store, spend, and send money, designed specifically for immigrants living and working in the United States.

- Fund your account with mobile check deposit, cash deposit, or bank account transfers. All with no minimum deposit requirements.
- Get \$2 cash back when you send money internationally using Remitly.
- Use everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted, even for car rentals and hotels.
- Get cash back with purchase at retail stores, or access any of over 2M ATMs worldwide.

<https://www.passbook.app/>



WHAT'S A BUDGET?

A game plan for telling your money what to do.

WHY'S BUDGETING IMPORTANT?

Reduce stress at the end of the month
Avoid debt
Avoid living paycheck to paycheck



WHAT'S THE GOAL OF MAKING A BUDGET

Reduce stress at the end of the month
Avoid debt
Avoid living paycheck to paycheck
Accomplish your goals
Retire with dignity

BUDGETING MYTHS

I can't buy what I want
There's too much math
I don't plan purchases



<https://nursemoneytalk.com/>

Free Budget Spreadsheets and Budget tips

- Tracking several monthly expenses can make managing your money a little easier or planning for special projects
- Online form to input your monthly income and a wide range of expenses —so you don't miss anything.
- 50/30/20 budget breakdown (50% toward needs, 30% toward wants and 20% toward savings and debt repayment)
- <https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/finance/free-budget-spreadsheets-templates>

TOP 5 SCAMS



E-Commerce Scam



Job Scam



**Non-Banking
Related Phishing
Scam**



Investment Scam



**Banking Related
Phishing Scam**



IMPERSONATION SCAM: SPECIAL RISK AT TAX RETURN TIME!

This scam usually involves a phone call or in-app call (e.g., WhatsApp) from someone claiming to be a local government official (e.g., government official, police officer or court official), staff from a bank or telco

How to Avoid IRS Scams: Dos & Donts

Dos:

- Beware if someone calls claiming to be from the IRS. The IRS will always contact you by mail before calling you about unpaid taxes.
- Ask the caller to provide their name, badge number, and callback number.
 - Then call TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 to find out if the caller is an IRS employee
 - If you confirm that the caller is from the IRS, call them back. Otherwise, report the scam call to TIGTA.
- Become familiar with what fraudulent IRS email messages look like.
- Verify the number of the letter, form, or notice on the IRS website.
- Be suspicious of threats. The IRS won't threaten to have police arrest you for not paying a bill.

How to Avoid IRS Scams: Dos & Don'ts

Don't:

- Don't give in to demands to pay money immediately.
- Be especially suspicious of demands to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Don't trust the name or phone number on a caller ID display that shows "IRS."
 - Scammers often change the name that shows on caller ID using a technique called spoofing.
- Don't click on any links in email or text messages to verify your information.



How to Report Fraud



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

How it works



Tell us what happened

Report a scam, a company, or an unwanted call.



Get your next steps

Find out what you can do to protect yourself.



Help stop fraud

We use and share reports with our law enforcement partners to help with investigations.

Website: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>

Do you know any programs or services you would recommend to other community members?

More resources shared by our participants



Feria de Empleo del Distrito Escolar de Urbana

Febrero 15 de 2023
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Urbana Middle School
1201 S. Vine St.
Urbana IL 61801

¡Estamos contratando para estas posiciones!

- Maestro/a
- Maestro/a Suplente
- Maestro/a de Apoyo
- Secretaria
- Líder de Recreación ASCCP
- Coordinador/a de sitio ASCCP
- Profesional de Terrenos para el Distrito
- Defensor/a del compromiso estudiantil
- Supervisor del Comedor
- Administrador de Sistemas

Además Entrevistas en el sitio
Nuevos Salarios competitivos
Horarios de Trabajo convenientes

¡¡ÚNETE A NUESTRO DISTRITO!!
Para mayor información, por favor visite
WWW.USD116.ORG/EMPLOYMENT

1-217-354-3600 | hr@usd116.org | www.usd116.org

Urbana School District #16
Employment Opportunities
<https://usd116.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>



Avicenna
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Serving humanity, one person at a time

CUIDADO DE SALUD GRATIS
ABIERTO LOS DOMINGOS
1-4PM

SITUADO EN EL SÓTANO DE CUPHD

ACEPTAMOS CON CITA Y SIN CITA

• Atención Primaria
• Diagnóstico, prevención y educación
• Pruebas de detección de diabetes y enfermedades de transmisión sexual
• Servicios de inmunización de adultos
• Atención de enfermedades crónicas

• 301 W. Kenyon Rd. Champaign, IL
• 309.306.1358
• www.avicennahealth.org

Free healthcare for the uninsured & underinsured (18+)
Open Sundays 1-4pm (CUPHD Building)
201 W Kenyon Rd, Champaign, IL 61820
Patient & appointment line: (309) 306-1358
<https://www.avicennahealth.org/>

Passbook



Passbook is a new way to store, spend, and send money, designed specifically for immigrants living and working in the United States.

- Fund your account with mobile check deposit, cash deposit, or bank account transfers. All with no minimum deposit requirements.
- Get \$2 cash back when you send money internationally using Remitly.
- Use everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted, even for car rentals and hotels.
- Get cash back with purchase at retail stores, or access any of over 2M ATMs worldwide.

<https://www.passbook.app/>



Credit Builder Loan

- Credit builder loans are typically \$1,000 or less.
- Loan amount you borrow is set aside in a secured savings account or certificate of deposit (CD)
- Make fixed payments to achieve a goal, typically 6 to 24 months
- Credit is built as on-time monthly payments
- When the balance is paid off in full, you will access to the money minus any interest and fees
- Set a realistic monthly budget to make sure you can make on-time payments!
- Benefits:
 - Easier to qualify than traditional loans
 - Loans help establish and build credit over time
 - Can help you to build savings
- More information: <https://www.self.inc/>

Acknowledgements

Participants of the Broadband READY Phase 2 - YOU!

Community Organizations

Danielle Chynoweth and Jessica Black
Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office

Kimberly David, Emily Long, Abby Eberly, and Rachel Whiteman
Project Success of Vermilion County

Stephanie Burnett, Katie Difanis, and Kenyatta Rule
Housing Authority of Champaign County

Thank you! For more information, please visit <https://communitydata.illinois.edu>

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