

Bucks County Opportunity Council offers free tax prep

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Single people and families in Bucks County with less than \$54,000 in total income last year could be eligible for free tax preparation services from a local nonprofit.

The Bucks County Opportunity Council said it will offer free accounting services under its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA.)

Services will be provided from locations in Bristol Township, Doylestown and Newtown boroughs, Warminster and Quakertown. Dates and times will vary by location with available appointments through April 13.

Since 2005, the nonprofit estimates it's helped over 11,000 families save more than \$31.5 million in refunds, tax credits and other fees.

"We want to insure that the low-income families we work with are getting all of the credits they're eligible to receive," Eileen Albillar, volunteer and community connections manager for the opportunity council.

"Our tax preparers do an interview with each client, and that helps connect them to other, additional resources," added Albillar. "If they're talking with the tax preparer of about a loss of income, we could

perhaps connect them to the opportunity council's emergency assistance and self-sufficiency programs. If they're speaking to the tax preparer about having many dependents, we might connect them with Fresh Connect [food programs] and local pantries."

For locations and times, and a list of documents to bring to your free tax preparation appointment, visit <http://www.bcoc.org/i-need-help-with/taxes/VITA/>

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