



Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

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Tax Administration

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS
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File your taxes for free

Free File makes online tax preparation software available to many taxpayers

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Did you know that most taxpayers can file their federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns using online tax preparation software for free? If you qualify, you can use the Free File program, with links available through the Rhode Island Division of Taxation website, to file at no charge.

The federal and Rhode Island tax-filing seasons are currently open. If you are eligible for Free File, you can prepare and electronically file your own federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns at no charge through the Free File links on the [Division of Taxation's website](#). Many taxpayers with federal adjusted gross incomes for 2021 below \$73,000 qualify for this program.

To use the Free File program, go to the Rhode Island Division of Taxation's [Free File webpage](#). You will see free offers displayed on the page from five brand-name online tax preparation software companies. Review the terms of each offer to see the ones for which you may be eligible and decide which is the best fit for your needs.

The screenshot shows the official website of the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. The header includes the state logo, the text 'STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Division of Taxation Department of Revenue', and a search bar. A navigation menu lists 'Online Services', 'Resources for...', 'Tax Sections', 'Forms', 'Guidance', and 'About Us'. The main content area displays a list of five Free File offers, each with a plus icon and a company name: 1040NOW, Online Taxes at OLT.com, TaxAct Free File, TaxHawk, and TaxSlayer. The breadcrumb trail at the top of the content area reads: Home > Online Services > Make a Payment Online > Free File.

When you have chosen the offer that best suits your needs, click on the link for that offer, and you will be directed to the company's free file page. You must access the company's website through the special dedicated link on the Division's webpage. Otherwise, you will not be able to take advantage of the Free File offer and will be charged to use the service.

Free File may be especially appealing to the following groups:

- College students
- Young adults
- First-time filers
- Seniors and retirees
- People in the military
- Some young families

But those are not the only taxpayers who may benefit. To see if you may qualify, read each Free File offer for full details.

The Division encourages taxpayers to keep the following points in mind:

- You must be eligible for Free File and you must file both your federal and state returns via the same Free File program in order to avoid charges/fees.
- If you have already filed your federal return for tax year 2021 in any way you will not be able to file your state return electronically.
- There may be a charge to file your taxes electronically if you do not meet the qualifications under the Free File program.
- Before you begin the online tax-preparation and e-filing process, gather all of the records that you will need to file a complete and accurate return, including Form W-2 wage statements, Form 1099 statements, Social Security numbers, and bank account information.
- E-filing is the only method available for having your Rhode Island personal income tax refund deposited directly into your bank or credit union account. Direct deposit is not available for paper returns.
- The Free File offers are not produced or endorsed by the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. They are produced by private-sector tax-preparation companies that have agreed to provide free online tax-preparation and e-filing services to those who qualify (based on income and/or other criteria). Taxpayers who utilize the program should carefully read the details of each offer before beginning the tax-preparation and tax-filing process.

For some taxpayers that need more assistance, the IRS manages programs that provide free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

The VITA program has operated for over 50 years. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$58,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

In addition to VITA, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

Rhode Island has a number of these volunteer tax preparation sites. To find a volunteer tax preparation site near you – including its location, hours, and dates of operation:

- Visit the IRS’s VITA/TCE webpage, which has links for finding nearby volunteer tax preparation sites: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>
- Call the United Way of Rhode Island’s helpline at 211
- Call the VITA program toll-free at 1-800-906-9887
- Call the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program toll-free at 1-888-227-7669

About Free File

Rhode Island is one of 20 states nationwide offering the Free File program to taxpayers. The free service is made possible from Free File, which is a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation, other states, and the Free File Alliance.

The Free File Alliance is a group of industry-leading private-sector tax-preparation companies that have agreed to provide free commercial online tax-preparation and electronic filing.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, part of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 or see <https://tax.ri.gov/about-us/contact-us>.
