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For the fifth straight year, eligible taxpayers can use the Free File site to prepare and electronically file their federal income tax returns without charges. There are no hidden fees. This program was developed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of industry leading private-sector tax preparation companies.

Free File is available to anyone who earns \$52,000 a year or less. That's 70 percent of all taxpayers, roughly 95 million Americans. Free File is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning January 16, 2007. The program is available in both English and Spanish.

More than 15.4 million tax returns have been prepared and submitted through Free File since it debuted during the 2003 filing season.

To use Free File, individuals must first go to the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), click on "Free File", then press the "Start Now" button and choose a tax preparation company from the list provided. (Free File is not available by going directly to a company's website.) Not all companies offer services to everyone. Filers should be sure to read the offer description to find which company best fits the taxpayer's individual needs. Once a company is selected, users click on the link to that company's website and begin preparing their return. Free File also has a "Guide Me to a Company" feature that will assist taxpayers in selecting a company that offers services tailored to their particular situation.

Although Free File is available only for federal income tax returns, some participating Free File Alliance companies also offer state tax return preparation and e-filing at no charge. Those services are noted in the Free File section of those companies' websites.

Some alliance companies will also provide free access to Form 1040EZ-T for those people who have no legal obligation to file a tax return but who can request the one-time telephone excise tax refund. In addition, taxpayers can use Free File to file a Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File.

### Five Easy Steps to Free File

Free File is fast and easy. This section walks taxpayers through the quick steps to electronically prepare and file their taxes for free.

### Facts

Quick facts about Free File are available. They include a quick description of the program, benefits, eligibility criteria and where to find more information.

### Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQs section provides more in-depth answers to many questions that have been asked over the past years about Free File.

### News Releases and PSAs *Coming Soon!*

All news releases relevant to Free File will appear in this section. In addition, you will find radio public service announcements available for use and distribution.

### Articles

The following articles are provided free of charge by the Free File program office of the Internal Revenue Service. The copy may be used in print and online to help explain the Free File program.

- [Want a Free Way to Electronically Prepare and File Your Taxes This Year?](#)
- [File Your Taxes Electronically for Free](#)
- [Employees Can File Their Taxes for Free](#)
- [Most 20-Somethings Can Electronically Prepare and File Their Federal Income Tax Returns for Free](#)
- [Free Tax Preparation & Filing Available in Spanish](#)
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### Free File is fast, easy and safe. To use the program, just follow these five steps:

- 1.** Go to the IRS website – [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) – click on “Free File” and press the “Start Now” button
- 2.** Choose a partnering Free File tax preparation company that best meets your individual needs from the list or use the “Guide Me To A Company” button.
- 3.** Take the link to the selected company’s website. (It is important to access the company through the IRS website; otherwise you may be charged a fee). You will be notified that you are leaving the [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) site and being sent to a commercial website.
- 4.** Once at the company’s website, read the “more details” section to learn more about the free offer.
- 5.** Then, prepare and submit your tax return online for free.



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### Description

The Free File program is a free federal tax preparation and electronic filing program for eligible taxpayers developed through a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Free File Alliance, a group of private sector tax preparation companies.

### Purpose

Free File allows taxpayers earning \$52,000 or less to file their **federal** tax returns for free—that means no cost and no hidden fees. Qualified taxpayers must enter the Free File program through the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). While Free File partners are allowed to charge a fee for state returns, some also offer free state filing. Check with your Free File partner to see if you can file your state taxes for free, as well. Use the "Guide Me to A Company" tool on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to determine which partners offer state tax preparation and e-filing services for your state. Fees for filing state income tax returns may apply.

### Eligibility

Those who earned \$52,000 or less in 2006 may use Free File this year. That means 70 percent of all taxpayers – 95 million Americans – can take advantage of the program.

### Program Benefits

Free File is fast, easy and safe to use. Also, you will receive a quicker refund when you submit your return electronically. The software programs are constantly updated to give you the most up to date information to complete your return accurately.

### Fast Facts

- To date, more than **15.4 million** have prepared and submitted their tax returns through Free File.
- **96%** of those who used the program found it "easy to use."
- **97%** said they would recommend Free File to others.
- **94%** who used Free File said they would use it again.

### Availability

Free File is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, starting in mid-January 2007. It is available in English and Spanish.

### More Information

Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Check the Free File Alliance company's website for customer service options such as a help desk phone number, online assistance, or an e-mail address.



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### What is Free File?

Free File is a free federal income tax preparation and electronic filing program for eligible taxpayers, developed through a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Free File Alliance. The Alliance consists of private sector tax preparation companies.

For 2007, individuals who earn \$52,000 or less may take advantage of the Free File program. This means 70 percent of all taxpayers — 95 million people — are eligible to Free File. Taxpayers can access the program starting in mid-January 2007 and it is available in English and Spanish.

### Who is Eligible to Use Free File?

Free File is available to taxpayers who earned \$52,000 or less in 2006.

### Is the Free File Program Really Free?

Yes, the Free File program is 100% free for qualifying taxpayers to electronically file their **federal** income taxes. There are no hidden fees or software costs. Taxpayers must enter through the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to use Free File.

### What are the Benefits of Using Free File?

Using Free File is fast, easy and safe. Those who meet the income requirement may file their federal income taxes completely **FREE** of charge. The program is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With Free File refunds come faster, in half the time. For example, when you use Free File and choose to receive your refund with Direct Deposit, you will receive your refund in as little as 10 days.

### Is Free File Secure?

Yes, Free File uses proprietary software approved by the IRS and your federal tax return is transmitted through the established IRS e-file

system using secure technologies. After you send your return, you will receive an email from the IRS to let you know that it was accepted or rejected.

In addition, each tax preparation company offering Free File must attain a third-party privacy and security certification, as well as comply with all federal rules and regulations on taxpayer privacy. For example, these rules prohibit the use of tax return data for purposes not specifically authorized by the taxpayer. Lastly, the IRS monitors each company to make sure that it meets the privacy and security regulations.

### Is Free File Easy to Use?

Free File is easy to use! It includes a "Free File Wizard" that will guide you through the program. Since Free File's debut in 2003, more than 15.4 million returns have been made through the program. Of those who have used Free File, 96% rated the program as "easy to use" and 97% said they would recommend it to a friend or family member.

### Can I Download the Tax Software to Prepare my Return?

The Free File program does not use downloadable software. It is an internet based tax preparation program. All of the software is maintained on the individual company websites.

### Which Tax Preparation and Filing Companies Offer Free File?

Free File is offered by nationally-known tax preparation companies. For a full list, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The Free File "offer" page assists taxpayers in locating software companies that best suit their needs.

If you have trouble choosing a company after scanning the list, you may use the Free File Wizard interactive help tool, "Guide Me To A Company," to help narrow your search.

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### How Do I Use Free File?

To use Free File, you must first go to the IRS website — [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) — and click on Free File.

Once you have reached the Free File page on you will find helpful information to assist you with filing your federal income tax return. Click the "Start Now" button to review the list of software companies and select one that best suits your needs. Once you select a company, you will be taken directly to that company's website to begin filing your federal tax return. Remember you must access the company through the IRS website to use Free File.

### May I Also File My State Income Tax Return for Free?

Some participating Free File Alliance companies offer free state tax return preparation and e-filing services. You must check the company's Free File section of their website for more information because not all companies offer free state tax return services. You can use the "Guide Me to A Company" tool on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to determine which companies offer state tax preparation and e-filing services for your state. Fees for filing state income tax returns may apply.

### What Happens if I Find My Income is More than \$52,000?

If, when using the Free File program, you find that your adjusted gross income exceeds \$52,000, then you will not be eligible to file your taxes for free. In that case, you may continue completing your return, but you will incur the tax preparation company's standard filing fee.

### If I Have a Balance Due on My Return, Is There a Fee to Pay My Taxes?

You may pay your taxes for a Free File return just as you would a paper or any other electronically filed return. You can pay by check, money order, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) or credit card. If you pay your balance due by credit card, there may be a "convenience fee" attached to this transaction.

### Are There any Additional Costs?

Before starting your return using Free File, carefully review the tax preparation company's criteria to confirm that you meet their eligibility for preparing and e-filing your federal tax return for free. While you may choose to do so, you are under no obligation to buy any of the company's other products or services. Note that starting in 2007, all Alliance partners have agreed to remove ancillary offerings, such as Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs), from the Free File program.

### Can I Use Free File if I File an Extension?

Yes, you can use Free File if you file for an extension. Free File is available until mid-October 2007.

### Can I Use Free File Without a Computer?

Free File is an electronic program that uses the Internet. If you don't have access to a computer at home or work consider using a computer at your local library or senior center.

### What Information will the IRS Collect or Retain on Me from Using Free File?

The information you provide through the "Guide Me To A Company" button is only used to determine the free services for which you may qualify. The information is entirely anonymous and will not be retained or used for any determination of tax liability. IRS policy prohibits the use of permanent Internet "cookies." In order to assist or identify you to make certain you are the correct recipient of information requested, the IRS may use "temporary" or "session" cookies, but these are deleted when your Internet visit ends. No information about you is maintained as a result of a temporary or session cookie.

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### **Can I Get My Federal Telephone Excise Tax Refund through Free File?**

Yes. Some Free File Alliance companies will provide free access to Form 1040EZ-T for those eligible filers who are not required to file a tax return, but want to request the one-time telephone excise tax refund. The telephone tax refund is a one-time payment available on your 2006 federal income tax return, designed to refund previously collected federal excise taxes on long-distance or bundled services. The IRS will refund the taxes you paid on long-distance or bundled service billed after Feb. 28, 2003 and before Aug. 1, 2006. More information about the Telephone Excise Tax refund can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### **What if I Have Additional Questions?**

More information about Free File can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Specific questions about your individual tax form submission must be directed to the tax preparation or filing organization that is offering you the Free File service, not the IRS.



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### Want a Free Way to Electronically Prepare and File Your Taxes This Year?

If you earn \$52,000 a year or less, you're about to save time and money! That's because Free File lets you electronically prepare and file your federal income tax return for free.

Free File is offered by the IRS in partnership with the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of leading private-sector tax preparation companies. The program launched five years ago and 15.4 million Americans have used it to date. A recent survey showed that 96 percent of those who used Free File found it "easy to use" and 97 percent said they would recommend it to others.

#### Free File is as easy and safe to use as 1, 2, 3:

1. Go to the IRS website - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) - click on "Free File" and press the "Start Now" button.
2. Then, choose a tax preparation company from the list. (You must select a company from the list rather than going directly to a company's website. Otherwise, you may be charged a fee). Some of the companies offer the software in Spanish.
3. If you want help choosing a company, use the interactive tool to help narrow your search.

If you have questions, use the "Wizard" feature to guide you through the tax preparation process. It also checks your math and informs you of the newest tax deductions.

So skip those long paper forms and use Free File. There's less chance for making errors and you'll get your refund in half the time. For example, when you use Free File and choose to receive your refund with Direct Deposit, you will receive your refund in as little as 10 days. Free File is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week beginning January 16, 2007.





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### File Your Taxes Electronically for Free

A lot of Americans jumpy over filing their tax returns will be getting a nice jolt of comfort thanks to electronic filing.

If you're one of the 95 million Americans who earns \$52,000 or less a year – that's 70 percent of all taxpayers – you may be able to electronically file your taxes this year for free. And that would mean not only less chance for errors in preparing your return, but also a quicker refund.

For the fifth straight year, Free File — a program offered in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of industry leading private-sector tax preparation companies — lets eligible taxpayers prepare and e-file their federal income tax return at no charge.

Although Free File is available only for federal income tax returns, some participating Free File Alliance companies also offer state tax return preparation and e-filing at no charge. Those services are noted in the Free File section of those companies' websites.

To date, more than 15.4 million have prepared and submitted their federal tax returns through Free File. A recent survey showed that 96 percent of those who used the program found it "easy to use" and 97 percent said they would recommend it to others.

"This survey confirms what we've known anecdotally for four years: taxpayers like Free File," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "This innovative program combines the best of the private and public sectors to provide real value to taxpayers."

Free File is fast, easy and safe to use. To start, go to the IRS website - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) - click on "Free File", then press the "Start Now" button and choose a tax preparation company from the list provided. To help you choose a company, there is an interactive tool to narrow your search. Then, simply click on the link to the selected company's website and begin preparing your return.

Free File is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week beginning January 16, 2007. The program is available in English and Spanish.



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### Employees Can File Their Taxes for Free

Want to offer your employees a money-saving benefit that will also save them time...and is FREE for your company? It's an electronic tax preparation and filing program called Free File and 95 million Americans are eligible to use it.

Free File is offered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with the Free File Alliance, LLC, a group of private-sector tax preparation companies. Quite simply, the program offers employees who earn \$52,000 or less the ability to electronically prepare and file their 2006 federal tax returns for FREE using secure, online software.

Tell your employees to visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on "Free File" to learn more about the program's benefits:

- Faster refunds
- Ease of use
- Improved accuracy
- No need to buy or download tax preparation software
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Available in English and Spanish.

Since 2002, 15.4 million people have used Free File. In a recent survey, 94 percent of those who used the program said they would use it again.

Make tax time faster and easier for your employees. Tell them about "Free File" today. Free File is available starting on January 16, 2007.



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### Most 20-Somethings Can Electronically Prepare and File Their Federal Income Tax Returns for Free

If you're new to the workforce or have never prepared your income taxes, the thought can be quite daunting. Fortunately, a free online program is available that guides you through the process. Better yet, the service — called Free File — lets you prepare and file your federal income tax return at no charge if you earn \$52,000 or less.

Free File is offered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of leading private-sector tax preparation companies. The program launched five years ago and 15.4 million Americans have used it to date. A recent survey showed that 96 percent of those who used Free File found it "easy to use" and 97 percent said they would recommend it to others.

Free File is fast, easy and safe to use. To start, go to the IRS website - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) - click on "Free File"; then press the "Start Now" button and choose a tax preparation company from the list provided. (Free File is not available by going directly to a company's website.) To help you choose a company, there is an online tool to narrow your search. Then, simply click on the link to the selected company's website and begin preparing your return.

The online software that you will use has an instructive "Wizard" feature that guides you through the tax preparation process. This interactive tool helps answer your questions and informs you of the newest tax deductions.

Another benefit of using Free File is that there is less chance for making errors, since the software questions you about inconsistent responses and checks your math. Also with Free File refunds come faster, in half the time. For example, when you use Free File and choose to receive your refund with Direct Deposit, you will receive your refund in as little as 10 days.

"Those individuals who grew up using technology should be especially comfortable with Free File," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "The software's built-in intuitive features make filling out a tax form much easier and quicker than the traditional hard copy way."

Free File can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week beginning January 16, 2007. The program is available in English and Spanish. Simply visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to get started, and save time and money.



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### Free Tax Preparation & Filing Available in Spanish

Tax time is here and you may be eligible for a free federal tax preparation and electronic filing program, called Free File. Over 80% of Hispanics are eligible for the Free File program. Best of all, some of the companies offer Free File in Spanish.

#### 95 Million Americans Can “Free File”

If you have traditionally prepared your taxes using paper forms, now is the year to do it electronically. That’s because a service called Free File allows taxpayers who earn \$52,000 or less prepare and electronically file their federal income tax returns without charge.

Free File was developed five years ago by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of leading private-sector tax preparation companies. More than 15.4 million have used the program since it debuted during the 2003 filing season. And 70 percent of all taxpayers – roughly 95 million Americans – are eligible to use the program this year.

#### It’s Easy To Free File Your Return

Using Free File is fast and easy. It’s accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning January 16, 2007. So you can use the program at your convenience.

To begin, simply go to the IRS website, and then:

1. Click on the Español link at the very top or simply type the address, [www.irs.gov/espanol](http://www.irs.gov/espanol). (If you are on the English Free File page, you will be able to click on the link for “Versión en Español”).
2. Click on “Presentación - Free File” on the left hand side of the page.
3. Click on start now button to choose a tax preparation software company from a list. (Free File is not available by going directly to a company’s website.) Be sure to read the offer description to find which company best fits your individual needs.
4. After making your selection, click on the link to that company’s website and begin preparing your federal income tax return.

The online program has an instructive tool that guides you through the process. This interactive tool helps answer your questions and informs you of the latest tax deductions. And using Free File helps minimize errors, since the software questions you about inconsistent responses and checks your math.

And Free File is secure to use. Your return is sent through the established IRS e-file system using secure technologies. After sending your return, you will get an e-mail from the company to let you know that the IRS accepted your return.

#### Other Free Tax Services Available

Some Free File companies offer other free services to those making \$52,000 or less. For example, several provide state income tax return preparation and e-filing services at no cost. Be advised that some companies do charge fees for these services. To make sure, read the “Free File” section of the selected company’s website.

#### Electronic Returns Mean Quick Returns

With Free File refunds come faster, in half the time. For example, when you use Free File and choose to receive your refund with Direct Deposit, you will receive your refund in as little as 10 days. That’s because electronic filing is easier and quicker for the IRS to process.

#### Free File Popular With Taxpayers

Last year, taxpayers responding to a survey about Free File reported an overwhelming level of satisfaction with the program. According to the survey, 94 percent said they intended to use Free File again, 96 percent said they found Free File “very easy” or “somewhat easy” to use and 97 percent said they would recommend it to others. Convenience, not the free cost, was the most appealing factor.

So if you’re ready to simplify your tax process this year, simply visit [www.irs.gov/espanol](http://www.irs.gov/espanol) to get started. You’ll save time and money, and enjoy a quicker refund.



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### Free File Helps Caregivers Quickly Prepare and File Taxes Electronically for Loved Ones

If you are a caregiver for a senior parent or relative, you would very likely welcome any help to make your job easier. And if you take on the additional responsibility of assisting your loved one with their federal income tax return, you'll be glad to know that Free File is available for your use. With Free File, you can electronically prepare and file a federal income tax return, as long as the individual has an annual income of \$52,000 or less.

#### Millions of Seniors Can "Free File"

Free File has been available for five years. It was introduced during the 2003 filing season by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in partnership with the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of leading private-sector tax preparation companies. So far, more than 15.4 million have used the program. And this year, 70 percent of all taxpayers – roughly 95 million Americans – qualify to use it.

Many seniors are eligible to use Free File, but you don't have to be a senior to use it. You simply have to earn \$52,000 or less a year.

#### It's Easy To Prepare A Return

Free File is fast, easy and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You'll be guided through the entire tax preparation and filing process and the program will alert you to inconsistent responses, check your math and notify you about the latest tax deductions. You can go back to any previous page or stop and save your work at any time, so you can continue working on the return later. Since Free File is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, you can access the program at your convenience.

#### Using Free File is Fast and Easy:

1. First go to the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on "Free File."
2. Choose a tax preparation company from the list. (Free File is not available by going directly to a company's website.) Be sure to read the offer description to find which company best fits your individual needs. For help in choosing a company, Free File has a "Guide Me to a Company" feature.

3. Click on the link to the selected company's website and begin preparing your federal income tax return.

And Free File is secure to use. Your return is sent through the IRS' established e-file system using secure technologies. After sending the return, you'll get an email from the IRS to let you know that it was received.

#### Other Free Tax Services Available

Some Free File companies offer other services at no cost to those making \$52,000 or less. These can include free preparation and e-filing of:

- State income tax returns
- Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File"
- Form 1040EZ-T, for those who have no legal obligation to file a return, but want to request the one-time Telephone Excise Tax Refund.

Be advised that some companies do charge fees for these services. To make sure, read the "Free File" section of the selected company's website.

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Last year, taxpayers responding to a survey about Free File reported an overwhelming level of satisfaction with the program. According to the survey, 94 percent said they intended to use Free File again, 96 percent said they found the program "very easy" or "somewhat easy" to use and 97 percent said they would recommend it to others. Convenience, not the free cost, was the most appealing factor. With Free File refunds come faster, in half the time. For example, when you use Free File and choose to receive your refund with Direct Deposit, you will receive your refund in as little as 10 days.

Caregiving is stressful in its own right. It's nice to know that with Free File, helping your loved one at tax time doesn't have to take a lot of time.