

AARP TAX AIDE PROGRAM 2021

A Guide for MAPL Patrons and Community Members

- Due to the COVID-19 virus, AARP has announced that there will be no in-person tax assistance this year.
- There are no other in-person sites in Monmouth County, and likely none in other New Jersey counties.
- All New Jersey VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Centers and all TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) Centers are currently closed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TAX ASSISTANCE:

If you have a computer, internet connection, and computer skills (or someone at home who can help):

1. IRS Free File – www.irs.gov

What Is IRS Free File?

The IRS Free File Program is a public-private partnership between the IRS and many tax preparation and filing software industry leaders who provide their brand-name products for free. It provides two ways for taxpayers to prepare and file their federal income tax online for free:

- Traditional IRS Free File provides free online tax preparation and filing options on IRS partner sites. Our partners are online tax preparation companies that develop and deliver this service at no cost to qualifying taxpayers. Please note, only taxpayers whose [adjusted gross income \(or AGI\)](#) is \$72,000 or less qualify for any IRS Free File partner offers.
- Free File Fillable Forms are electronic federal tax forms you can fill out and file online for free. If you choose this option, you should know how to prepare your own tax return. Please note, it is the only IRS Free File option available for taxpayers whose [income \(AGI\)](#) is greater than \$72,000.

Find what you need to get started, your protections and security, available forms and more about IRS Free File on the irs.gov website.

2. Alternative Tax Preparation (online) with AARP volunteers –
www.AARP.org

Contact-free: Taxpayers interact with Tax-Aide counselors online and by phone and exchange documents electronically.

Self-preparation: Tax-Aide gives taxpayers free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also get help from a Tax-Aide counselor to coach them through the process via computer screen-sharing.

3. Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean Free Tax Preparation -
<https://fulfillnj.org/get-help/#tax-help>

Qualified households for FREE tax preparation:

Households with children with annual incomes of \$57,000 or less, OR individuals with incomes of \$35,000 or less.

Individuals and families with a combined income of \$66,000 or less in 2020 can use myfreetaxes.com to file their federal and State income taxes for free.

Due to the need for COVID-19 precautions, all assistance is by appointment only this year.

Tax preparation can be fully remote, if you have the ability to scan, email and print documents. If not, you can schedule an appointment for a brief in-person Intake and to securely scan your documents at our sites at the Monmouth Mall, Ocean County Mall or the B.E.A.T. Center in Toms River.

Call 732-643-5888, option 4 for an appointment. Leave a message for callback.

Or you can schedule yourself online, bringing your tax documents with you on the day of your appointment. Online appointments made at

<https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/9z0tvh7v/> [Green button on site]

Go to the website for all of the details.

If you do not have a computer or internet connection or computer skills:

1. Talk to family and friends for referrals to a local tax professional.
2. Seek out a commercial tax site like H&R Block, Liberty Tax, or Jackson-Hewitt, or a local CPA (location information and phone numbers available – please call the library for assistance: 732-583-9100).

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the deadline for filing taxes be extended like last year?

We do not know at this time. No announcement has been made. Patrons can call the library for updates on this.

If the deadline is extended, will the library have AARP in-person tax aide later in the year?

We do not know at this time. If the COVID-19 numbers were to decrease to a safe level and the AARP volunteers were willing, we would certainly consider it.

If none of the options for tax filing above are acceptable, what should the patron do?

Call the IRS: 1-800-829-1040, 7am-7pm

How can I get tax forms?

Call the library with the forms needed (have the numbers of the forms ready when you call). The forms will be collected and an appointment for a porch pick-up will be arranged. The library staff can be reached at 732-583-9100, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9am-1pm and 2-6pm.