



## Getting Ready for 2022 Tax Filing Season

As Tax Filing Season approaches and the IRS will soon start accepting income tax returns, it is important to be ready and aware of the resources available to you. Also, here are some tips to take into consideration below. Families can go to <https://www.irs.gov/> for more details.

### Any Tips for Tax Season?

- Gather and organize all tax documents before filing. Some key records include, but are not limited to, W-2 Forms, 1095-A, 1099 from banks, 1099-K, 1099-MISC, 1099-INT for interest received, issuing agencies and other payers including unemployment compensation, dividends, distributions from a pension, annuity or retirement plan.
- The IRS has a [special page](#) available to help people “Get Ready” for the 2022 tax filing season when they file their 2021 federal tax returns. The IRS reminds people to make sure to file an accurate tax return and use electronic filing with direct deposit to avoid possible delays.
- For the 2021 tax year, taxpayers should also gather and keep:
  - a) IRS Letter 6419, 2021 Total Advance Child Tax Credit Payments, to reconcile advance Child Tax Credit payments, and
  - b) IRS Letter 6475, Your 2021 Economic Impact Payment, to determine eligibility to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit
- Set up an [Online Account](#) if you have not already. With an online account you can securely gain entry to the Child Tax Credit Update Portal to see payment dates and amounts, see your Economic Impact Payment amounts to accurately claim the credit when filing, amongst other things.
- Throughout the month of January 2022, the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is hosting a nationwide pre-filing season awareness outreach campaign to provide guidance to taxpayers who prepare their own returns. Sessions will focus on how to file accurate tax returns and avoid common filing errors as well as tax return processing problems that may result in refund delays. Learn about planned events by visiting [TAS's website](#). As TAS schedules these events, it will update the event calendar. Revisit the website periodically for updates.

### Tips when choosing a tax professional:

- Check the [IRS Directory of Preparers](#). While it's not a complete listing of tax return preparers, it does include those who are enrolled agents, CPAs and attorneys, as well as those who participate in the Annual Filing Season Program.
- Check the preparer's history with the Better Business Bureau. Taxpayers can [verify an enrolled agent's status](#) on IRS.gov.
- Avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of their refund into their financial accounts.
- Be wary of tax return preparers who claim they can get larger refunds than others.

- Ask if they plan to use [e-file](#).
- Make sure the preparer is available. People should consider whether the individual or firm will be around for months or years after filing the return. Taxpayers should do this because they might need the preparer to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return.
- Ensure the preparer signs and includes their preparer tax identification number. Paid [tax return preparers](#) must have a PTIN to prepare tax returns.
- Check the person's credentials. Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in tax matters. Other tax return preparers who participate in the IRS [Annual Filing Season Program](#) have limited practice rights to represent taxpayers during audits of returns they prepared.

## IRS Tools & Resources

- Families can file taxes for free online through the IRS Free File program at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>.
- [Coronavirus Tax Relief](#): This page provides information about, and resources for, the 2021 Child Tax Credit, Recovery Rebate Credits and other coronavirus tax relief.
- [What is Taxable and Nontaxable Income?](#) Where taxpayers can find out what income is taxable and nontaxable.
- [Free File](#): Here, eligible individuals can select and use commercial software to prepare and file their federal income taxes online for free.
- [Publication 5349, Year-round tax planning is for everyone](#). It provides tips on developing habits throughout the year that will help make tax preparation easier. This resource also includes a checklist of items taxpayers should have on hand when filing their tax return.
- [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Locator](#): This tool helps taxpayers find organizations that provide free tax help for the elderly, the disabled, people who speak limited English and taxpayers with low incomes.
- [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers](#): This tool allows individuals and businesses to search for tax preparers in their area who hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS.
- [Where's My Refund?](#): Using this tool, taxpayers can check the status of their refund within 24 hours after IRS receives their e-filed return or 4 weeks after mailing a paper return.
- [Payments](#): Here, taxpayers can pay by direct debit from their bank account or choose an approved payment processor to pay by credit or debit card for a fee. They can also apply for a payment plan and learn about the IRS Offer in Compromise program.
- As part of its ongoing effort to improve online access, IRS provides information and resources in as many [languages](#) as possible through as many devices as possible, including the [IRS2Go Mobile App](#).