



The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
2306 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
2365 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2017

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

We are writing to strongly encourage you to support \$30 million in funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program, which leverages volunteer support to provide free tax preparation services to millions of low-and-moderate-income working individuals and families in some of the most underserved and hardest-to-reach communities across the country.

VITA trained volunteers become IRS certified tax preparers and provide qualifying individuals and families with free, reliable assistance in filing federal and state tax returns. Throughout tax season, tens of thousands of volunteers – working at sites in every state nationwide – are assisting persons of limited means, those with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency in accurately fulfilling their tax obligations as well as ensuring that workers can keep the full amount of any refund for which they are eligible.

Fundamentally, VITA supports those who cannot afford professional tax services but need assistance to accurately complete their taxes. In 2016, nearly 55,000 IRS-certified tax assistance volunteers prepared 2.1 million returns at 5,000 tax sites across the United States. Free tax assistance resulted in more than \$2.2 billion returning to local communities in 2016 – dollars spent to cover child expenses and transportation costs, pay bills, purchase household necessities, as well as to save for the future.

VITA is the model of an effective public private partnership and the program has maximized the existing appropriation.

We encourage you to continue building on the success of VITA for Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations. The current funding level of \$15 million represents only a fraction of the costs of operating VITA tax sites nationwide. Though the tax returns are prepared by volunteers, sponsoring community organizations contribute significant resources to recruit and train the volunteers, supervise the

volunteers to ensure accuracy, provide office space and computers for electronic filing, and conduct outreach to community members.

Demand for VITA services also continues to grow – especially as the IRS’s capacity to respond to taxpayer needs has declined. The IRS has determined that while 2.1 million presently access free tax assistance, a total of 19 million would do so if it were readily available.

We, the undersigned organizations, call upon you to provide \$30 million in funding for the individuals and families who utilize VITA to accurately file their taxes and grow in their financial stability and success. Given the significant return on investment for this program and the growing demand for quality free tax assistance, we encourage you to prioritize strong funding for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Grant Program in FY2018 Appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**National**

Corporation for Enterprise Development  
Consumer Action  
Credit Builders Alliance  
Davenport Consulting  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American  
Community Development (CAPACD)  
National Consumer Law Center  
National Federation of Community Development  
Credit Unions  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
RESULTS  
Self-Help Federal Credit Union  
United Way Worldwide

**Alaska**

Community Financial, Inc.  
United Way of Anchorage

**Alabama**

United Way of East Central Alabama

**Arizona**

A New Leaf  
Center for Economic Integrity  
Earn to Learn  
Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, Inc.  
Interfaith Community Services  
Our Family Services  
Pima County Housing Center  
The Primavera Foundation, Inc.  
United Way of Northern Arizona

**Arizona (cont.)**

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona  
Valley of the Sun United Way

**Arkansas**

Arkansas Community Institute  
Asset Development Research Team (University of  
Arkansas)  
United Way of Northeast Arkansas  
United Way of the Ouachitas

**California**

Alameda County Community Asset Network  
Antioch First 5  
Arrowhead United Way  
CAMEO - California Assoc. for Micro Enterprise  
Opportunity  
Coastside Hope - VITA Program  
Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Alameda  
County  
Community Financial Resources  
Contra Costa Family Economic Security  
Partnership  
Corona Norco United Way  
East Bay Works - Concord  
Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in  
Contra Costa County  
Fremont Family Resource Center  
HIP Housing  
Juma Ventures  
Mission Economic Development Agency  
Monument First 5 Center

**California (cont.)**

Opportunity Fund  
Orange County United Way  
PACE - Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Peninsula Family Service  
Project Read  
Richmond Community Foundation  
Rubicon Programs  
Sacred Heart Community Service  
San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment  
SparkPoint Contra Costa  
United Way Bay Area  
United Way California Capital Region  
United Way Fresno Madera Counties  
United Way Monterey County  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
United Way of Kern County  
United Way of Santa Cruz County  
United Way of Stanislaus County  
United Way of the Desert  
United Way of the Wine Country  
United Ways of California

**Colorado**

Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Denver Asset Building Coalition  
MakeChange NoCo (VITA / TCE Programs)  
Pikes Peak United Way  
United Way of Larimer County

**Connecticut**

Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Connecticut United Ways  
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.  
Middlesex Coalition for Children

**Delaware**

Nehemiah Gateway CDC

**Florida**

2-1-1 Suncoast, Inc.  
Actual HR  
ALSO Youth, Inc  
Barry University  
Bealls Inc  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County  
Branches, Inc.  
CareerEdge Funders Collaborative

**Florida (Cont.)**

Catalyst Miami  
Children First  
City of Bradenton  
City of Miami Gardens Betty T Ferguson  
City of St. Petersburg  
City of Sweetwater  
Clerk of Circuit Court and County Comptroller  
Community Access Center Inc  
DeSoto / Highlands County Health Department  
Economic Development Corp. of Sarasota County  
Exchange Club Family Partnership Center of  
Manatee County, Inc.  
Florida Alliance of CDCs  
Four Winds Network Services  
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc.  
Goodwill Industries-Manasota  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
Gulf Coast Signs of Sarasota, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc.  
Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La  
Harvest Tabernacle of Sarasota, Inc  
Heart of Florida United Way  
Manatee Children's Services  
Manatee Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Manatee Community FCU  
Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc.  
Myakka City Community Center  
Performance Design Group  
Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central  
Florida  
PPi Technologies GROUP  
R&L Healthcare Advisors  
Rotary Futures College Resource Center  
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center  
Sarasota Young Professionals Group  
Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
St. Thomas University School of Law  
Suncoast Technical College  
SWFL Chapter of the American Red Cross  
The Florida Center for Early Childhood  
The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
Tribridge  
Trident Building Systems  
TSE Industries  
UnidosNow  
United Way of Broward County  
United Way of Florida  
United Way of Miami-Dade  
United Way of Northeast Florida

**Florida (Cont.)**

United Way of Okaloosa & Walton counties  
United Way of Palm Beach County  
United Way Pasco  
United Way Suncoast  
Veethree  
Youth Co-Op, Inc.

**Georgia**

Cooperative Customer Communications  
GADVBE-Georgia Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises  
United Way of Greater Atlanta  
Urban Asset Builders

**Hawaii**

Aloha United Way  
Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC)  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii  
Feeding Hawaii Together Org  
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii  
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development  
Hawaii Book & Music Festival  
Hawaii Federal Credit Union  
Hawaii HomeOwnership Center  
Hawaii International Child, Inc.  
Hawaii Performing Arts Co. dba Manoa Valley Theatre  
Hawaii VITA & Financial Empowerment  
Hawaiian Community Assets  
Ho`ola Na Pua  
HUGS For Hawaii's Seriously Ill Children and Their Families  
Lanakila Pacific  
Madd Hawaii  
Ohana Komputer  
the early school  
The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.  
Waialua Federal Credit Union  
YWCA Oahu

**Idaho**

United Way of South Central Idaho  
United Way of Treasure Valley

**Illinois**

Center for Changing Lives  
Center for Economic Progress  
Center for Financial Services Innovation  
Community Plus Federal Credit Union

**Illinois (cont.)**

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
Holberg Finacial  
Illinois Asset Building Group  
Ladder Up  
Northwest Side Housing Center  
Project IRENE  
United Way of Central Illinois  
United Way of Champaign County  
United Way of Illinois  
United Way of Lee County  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
United Way of Rock River Valley  
United Way of the Quad Cities Area  
Warren County United Way  
Woodstock Institute

**Indiana**

Indiana Association of United Ways  
Jackson County United Way  
United Way of Central Indiana  
United Way of Knox County  
United Way of Monroe County

**Iowa**

coasap  
Hawkins & Hawkins Consulting LLC  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Iowa Saves  
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor  
United Way of Central Iowa  
United Way of East Central Iowa  
United Ways of Iowa

**Kansas**

Hutchinson Community Foundation  
Labette County Emergency Assistance Center  
Manahttan Area HFH  
Peace Connections  
United Way of Greater Topeka  
United Way of McPherson County  
United Way of the Flint Hills  
United Way of the Plains  
United Way of Wyandotte

**Kentucky**

Anderson County Adult Learning Center  
Jewish Family & Career Services of Louisville  
Louisville Asset Building Coalition  
Mayfield-Graves County United Way

**Kentucky (cont.)**

Metro United Way  
Nicholasville Tourism. Jessamine Safehouse inc  
The Center for Great Neighborhoods  
The Hamilton-Ryker Group  
The Hockensmith Agency, Inc.  
United Way Bourbon County  
United Way of Central Kentucky  
United Way of Franklin County  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
United Way of Kentucky  
United Way of Mason County  
United Way of Murray Calloway County  
United Way of Southern Kentucky  
United Way of the Bluegrass

**Louisiana**

Capital Area United Way  
Church for the Highlands  
Highland Center Ministries  
Louisiana Association of United Ways  
United Way of Acadiana  
United Way of Central Louisiana  
United Way of Northwest Louisiana  
United Way of Southeast Louisiana  
VITA Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

**Maine**

CASH Maine  
LifeStyles of Maryland  
New Ventures Maine  
United Way of Androscoggin County  
United Way of Eastern Maine  
United Way of Greater Portland  
United Way of Mid Coast Maine  
United Way of Mid-Maine  
United Way of Oxford County  
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area  
United Way of York County

**Maryland**

Baltimore CASH Campaign  
CASA  
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.  
GVE Media/PR  
MakingChange, Inc.  
Maryland CASH Campaign  
Montgomery County Maryland Community Action Board  
SHORE UP! Inc.

**Maryland (cont.)**

Tzu Chi Foundation  
United Way of Charles County  
United Way of Frederick County

**Massachusetts**

Berkshire United Way  
Compass Working Capital  
JVS Boston  
Lawrence Community Works  
United Way of Central Massachusetts  
United Way of North Central  
United Way of Pioneer Valley  
Valley Community Development Corp.

**Michigan**

Asset Independence Coalition  
Capital Area United Way  
Global Aid Accounting Society  
Ionia County Intermediate School District  
Michigan Association of United Ways  
Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency  
Old National Bank  
Twin Rivers Elementary School  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties  
United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula  
United Way of Washtenaw County

**Minnesota**

American Indian Community Development Corporation.  
Community Action Duluth  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Head of the Lakes United Way  
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership  
Midwest Minnesota CDC  
Minnesota Asset Building Coalition  
Minnesota State, Mankato  
Neighborhood Development Alliance  
Prepare + Prosper  
Tri-County Action Program  
United Ways of Minnesota  
WCMCA

**Missouri**

East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.

**Nevada**

Opportunity Alliance Nevada  
United Way of Southern Nevada

### **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Southern NH Services Inc.

### **New Jersey**

Bergen County's United Way  
Divine Purpose Community Services Inc  
United Way of Central Jersey  
United Way of Essex and West Hudson  
United Way of Gloucester County  
United Way of Gr. Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey  
United Way of Greater Mercer County  
United Way of Greater Union County  
United Way of Hunterdon County  
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties  
United Way of Northern New Jersey  
United Way of Passaic County

### **New Mexico**

United Way of Central New Mexico

### **New York**

Chenango United Way  
Circles of Mercy  
CASH Coalition-Greater Capital Region  
CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000  
Empire Justice Center  
Hoosick Area Church Association  
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc.  
Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners  
RCIL  
Start Small Think Big  
STCASH c/o Steuben Churchpeople Against Poverty  
The Financial Clinic  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
United Way of Cayuga County  
United Way of Central New York  
United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties  
United Way of Greater Rochester  
United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties  
United Way of New York State  
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County  
United Way of Ontario County  
United Way of Rockland County  
United Way of Rome NY & Western Oneida County  
United Way of the Greater Capital Region

### **New York (cont.)**

United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, Inc.  
United Way of Tompkins County  
United Way of Westchester & Putnam  
Urban Upbound  
UWGR

### **North Carolina**

Community link  
IDA and Asset Building Collaborative of NC  
North Carolina Assets Alliance  
United Way Greater High Point  
United Way of North Carolina

### **North Dakota**

ND Economic Security & Prosperity Alliance

### **Ohio**

American Red Cross Cincinnati Chapter  
ASIA, INC.  
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress  
Cuyahoga EITC Coalition led by Enterprise  
Community Partners  
Hacienda CDC  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland  
Ohio United Way  
The Potter's House Ministries, Inc.  
United Way of Central Ohio  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
United Way of Greater Stark Co  
United Way of Hancock County  
United Way of Summit County

### **Oklahoma**

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation  
Oklahoma Policy Institute

### **Oregon**

Bienestar, Inc.  
Bradley Angle  
CASA of Oregon  
CASH Oregon  
Catholic Charities Oregon  
City of Salem Housing Authority  
Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.  
Corban University  
Innovative Changes

**Oregon (cont.)**

Kathy Lawrence Construction Clean  
McMinnville  
Mercy Corps Northwest  
MERIT  
Metropolitan Family Service  
Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon  
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority  
Mt. Hood Community College  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
Northwest Family Services  
Northwest Housing Alternatives  
Northwest Oregon Housing Authority  
ONABEN  
Open Door HousingWorks  
Proud Ground  
Self Enhancement, Inc.  
United Way of Columbia County  
United Way of Deschutes County  
Warm Springs Community Action Team

**Pennsylvania**

Berks Encore  
Bridge of Hope Centre County  
Campaign for Working Families, Inc  
Catholic Charities, Inc. of the Diocese of Altoona-  
Johnstown  
Center for Community Resources  
Center for Leadership, Development and  
Advocacy  
Centre Co. Women's Resource Center  
Centre County United Way  
Centre Volunteers in Medicine  
Clarifi  
Columbia Life Network  
Community Help Centre  
Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Housing Transitions  
Life Transforming Ministries  
North Penn United Way  
Park Forest Preschool  
PathWays PA  
Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation  
State College Community Land Trust  
The Factory Ministries  
United Way of Beaver County  
United Way of Berks County  
United Way of Butler County  
United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County

**Pennsylvania (cont.)**

United Way of Chester County  
United Way of Columbia County  
United Way of Erie County  
United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties  
United Way of Lancaster County  
United Way of Lebanon County  
United Way of Monroe County  
United Way of Pennsylvania  
United Way of Southwestern PA  
United Way of the Capital Regeion  
United Way of the Titusville Region  
United Way of Wyoming Valley  
United Way of York County, PA  
West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution  
Women's Opportunities Resource Center  
YMCA of Centre County

**South Carolina**

United Way Association of South Carolina  
United Way of Aiken County  
United Way of Anderson County  
United Way of Greenville County  
United Way of the Midlands

**Tennessee**

New Level Community Development Corp.  
United Way of Greater Knoxville  
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville  
VITA Lenoir City

**Texas**

Alliance for Multicultural Community Services  
Articulate Labs  
Capital IDEA Houston  
Center for Transforming Lives  
Chinese Community Center  
Crisis Assistance Center  
Greater Longview United Way  
Houston Area Urban League  
Houston Habitat for Humanity  
Midland College  
Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy  
Center  
Northwest Assistance Ministries  
RAISE Texas  
Sheppard AFB VITA Volunteer  
Texas A&M International University  
The Women's Resource of Greater Houston  
United Way of Brazoria County

**Texas (cont.)**

United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers  
County  
United Way of Greater Houston  
United Way of Midland, Inc.  
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County  
United Way of South Texas  
United Way of Southern Cameron County  
United Way of Tarrant County  
United Way of the Coastal Bend

**Utah**

United Way of Salt Lake

**Vermont**

BROC-Community Action in Southwestern  
Vermont  
Capstone Community Action  
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity  
United Way of Addison County

**Virginia**

Rappahannock United Way  
Rooftop of Virginia CAP  
United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area  
Virginia Community Action Partnership

**Washington**

Spokane County United Way  
United Way of King County  
United Way of Pierce County  
United Way of Skagit County  
United Ways of the Pacific Northwest

**Wisconsin**

United Way Fox Cities  
United Way of Dunn County  
United Way of Racine County  
United Way of Wisconsin