



WAGE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
ATLANTA, GA 30308

JAN 27 2012

Dear Partner,

Welcome to the 2012 filing season! This filing season signals a significant expansion in the IRS' Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) new program called **Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA)**. We are requesting your assistance to get the word out about this new program. Last year, there were over 100 locations participating in the program, and this year we are pleased to announce that more than 900 sites have committed to **FSA**.

Under **FSA**, taxpayers prepare their own return using online interview-based software, while IRS-certified volunteers stand ready to assist with tax questions and/or computer issues. This provides an opportunity for sites to assist more individuals and for volunteers to assist multiple clients in a single session. In addition, tech-savvy taxpayers (e.g. college students, young professionals) will gain the knowledge, experience, and confidence needed for filing future returns with little or no help. Last year, more than 4,000 taxpayers took advantage of this option to file their tax return. To offer this new service, the IRS partnered with various software providers to include their online product free-of-charge at tax preparation locations.

In order to make taxpayers aware of the **FSA** option, we need your help. The attached electronic flyer provides information on **FSA** for individual taxpayers. Please share the flyer with your customers that are individual taxpayers (Form 1040 filers). You can personally add a specific site location inside the fillable "Where do I go?" section or direct individuals to the **FSA** site listing that can also be found on IRS.gov, keyword, VITA. Attached is a listing (by state) of all sites that are participating in the **FSA** program. You may also share the flyer and the site list with your affiliated organizations to promote **FSA** to their individual taxpaying customers.

For more than 40 years, the IRS has worked with organizations such as yours to promote and support free volunteer tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. Last year was another tremendous success for the programs, as more than 88,000 volunteers prepared over 3.2 million returns at approximately 12,000 sites.

Again, welcome and thanks. If you have any questions, please send us an email at wi.spec.nat.partn@irs.gov. Let's work together to promote this exciting initiative and make this our best filing season ever!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Beebe".

Michael Beebe
Director, Stakeholder Partnerships,
Education and Communication