

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Tax Program Helps Keep Dollars in Local Pockets**

*Alameda County Social Services Agency Expands Tax Preparation Services*

**WHAT:**

Oakland, CA. — Eye-catching “air dancers” beckon taxpayers into offices of the Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA), where IRS-certified tax preparers will be waiting to provide no cost evening and weekend tax preparation. Starting January 22, 2014 the Social Services Agency (SSA) opened its 13<sup>th</sup> season of providing no cost tax preparation assistance to low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

With the help of a grant from the United Way of the Bay Area, SSA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) preparers help tax filers to receive larger tax refunds by claiming the credits they have earned. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is provided to working families and single or married individuals. Individuals and households whose 2013 income was \$52,000 or less qualify for the EITC and no cost tax preparation services. Additionally, families and individuals may be eligible for other credits.

“Last year, the program served over 1,600 tax filers and returned \$2.4 million in total refunds to Alameda County residents,” noted Lori A. Cox, the Agency’s Director. “That’s money that will go back into the local economy. This year, we’re delighted to offer even more services.”

The additional services include: more hours of operation; on-site health care and CalFresh enrollment; direct deposit, banking and credit union services; information on other financial and asset building products; and Virtual VITA Tax Preparation (drop-off and pick-up service for returning filers).

**WHEN:**

**Dates of operation:** January 22, 2014 to April 14, 2014. (Sites will be closed on February 12 and 17, 2014 in observance of Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays.)

**Hours of operation:** Mondays and Wednesdays: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**WHERE:**

Thomas L. Berkley Self-Sufficiency Center, 2000 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland CA 94612  
Enterprise Office, 8477 Enterprise Way, Oakland CA 94621  
Eden Area Multi-Service Center, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward CA 95444

**WHO:**

Approximately 100 IRS-certified tax preparers.

For photos and information, see our [Facebook post](#) or visit our [website](#).