



2022 WHATCOM TAX GUIDE



IRS CERTIFIED FREE TAX PREPARATION SITES

Available for people who make \$58,000 or less, or up to \$66,000 for ages 60+

AARP

2601 Cornwall Ave.

aarp.org/taxaide

Mon. - Wed., 3 -7pm

Sat., 12:30 - 4pm

Appointment only

Open to anyone, but primary focus on age 50+ with low-to-moderate income.

NW Indian College

2522 Kwina Rd.

360-392-4345 or

360-255-4414

Mon. & Wed.

8:30am - 4:30pm

Appointment only

One-on-one help, or option to self-file with support.

WWU

516 High St.

360-650-3500

Mon. - Wed.

4:30 - 7:30pm

Appointment only

In-person assistance (Mondays) or online assistance (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

WCC

310 W Kellogg Rd.

Phyllis & Charles Self Learning Commons

Mon. 5 - 8pm

Fri. 10am - 1pm

Drop-in service

In-person assistance available without an appointment.



DO IT YOURSELF: FREE ONLINE TAX PROGRAMS & HELP

Prepare and file your 2021 tax return for free, and find important information online

IRS FREE FILE

irs.gov/freefile

Free access to brand-name tax software.

GET YOUR REFUND

getyourrefund.org

File your own taxes with IRS Certified assistance.

WHATCOM ABC

whatcomabc.org/taxes

Find the latest information and tax updates.

Tip: many online programs provide free filing for simple tax returns, **but may charge a fee for more complicated returns.** To avoid an unexpected charge, utilize one of the IRS Certified resources listed above.

Not sure where to start? Call Opportunity Council's tax hotline at 360-746-0100, or email taxes@oppc.org

WHY USE AN IRS CERTIFIED FREE TAX PREPARATION SITE?

- It's **FREE!** The average tax return costs \$240 but can range between \$100 and \$600. At free tax prep sites, no one's offering you costly loan products with hidden fees.
- It's **ACCURATE!** IRS Certified free sites have a 94% accuracy rate, while paid preparers are rated as only 40% accurate. This could mean more money owed or not getting a full refund.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR THE 2022 TAX SEASON

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

For the first time, adults without children at home can qualify for this credit. The EITC has nearly tripled this year for workers without dependent children, from ~\$540 to up to \$1,500. In addition, previously ineligible workers age 19-24 who are not half-time+ students, and older workers (65+) are now eligible for the expanded EITC.

Recovery Rebate Credit

The IRS issued three Economic Impact Payments (EIP) in 2020-2021. You may be eligible to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit on your 2020 or 2021 federal tax return if you didn't get an EIP or got less than the full amount. Depending on whether you missed the first, second or third payment, you will need to file either a 2020 or 2021 tax return to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit. Learn more on the [IRS website](https://www.irs.gov).

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Nearly every family with children is eligible to receive the expanded CTC this year. Each qualifying household is eligible to receive up to \$3,600 for each child under age 6, and \$3,000 for each child between ages 6 and 17. You must file a tax return this year to claim this credit, even if you do not typically file.

Reporting Unemployment Compensation

You may be among the millions of people who received unemployment compensation in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. By law, these benefits are taxable and must be reported on your tax return. If you received unemployment compensation in 2021, you should receive a Form 1099-G showing the amount you were paid and any federal income tax you withheld. If you don't receive one by mail, request one [online](#).

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Before filing, gather items you may need:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Photo ID
- Social Security card or ITIN assignment letter
- Copy of 2020 return (if using new online pgm.)
- Bank account & routing numbers

INCOME INFORMATION

- W-2 Forms
- Any 1099 Form
- Alimony received
- Misc. income (jury duty, gambling winnings, etc.)

HEALTH INSURANCE DOCS

- 1095-A, 1095-B, or 1095-C (if relevant)

DEDUCTIONS AND CREDITS

- Charitable donations
- Medical and dental expense records
- Property Taxes and Mortgage Interest
- IRS 6419 letter (Advance CTC Payments),
IRS 6475 letter (Economic Impact Payments)

BACK-UP INFORMATION

- Alimony paid
- Any 1098 Form
- Childcare Costs