LADDER UP

Free Tax Filing and Other Available Resources

Who We Are

❖ At Ladder Up, we give hardworking people the resources they need to move up the economic ladder, guiding them toward a brighter future through our Tax Assistance Program (TAP), Tax Clinic, and Financial Capability Program.

Services

- **Tax Assistance Program**
  - Free Tax Preparation
  - Family < $58,000
  - Individual < $32,000

- **Tax Clinic Program**
  - Helps individuals & families with controversies with IRS/IDOR
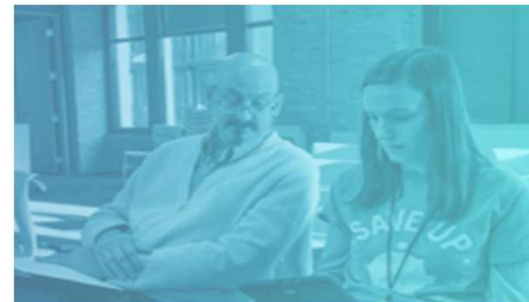
- **Financial Literacy Program**
  - **College Success Track**
    - Financial Aid/FAFSA Workshops
    - Understanding Student Loans
    - Understanding Award Letters
    - Managing Your College Finances

  - **Adult Literacy Track**
    - Budgeting, Banking & Saving, Credit Building Workshops
    - Consulting to build Financial Capability

Tax Assistance Program

Through TAP, we offer free electronic preparation and filing of individual income tax returns to help clients access critical tax refunds. TAP helps taxpayers claim many credits that are otherwise left on the table. Last year alone, we secured more than $14 million in refunds for Illinois taxpayers, money that can often mean the difference between treading water and turning a corner.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, TAP plans to open **13 tax sites** in Chicago and suburban areas this upcoming tax season.

Note: TAP can also assist with previous tax years (up to 2016) and amendments.

Walk-In Volunteer Prepared Tax Sites

- <u>Chicago Sites</u>
  - Brighton Park
  - Dunning
  - Englewood
  - Hermosa
  - Loop
  - Pullman
  - Uptown
- <u>Suburbs Sites</u>
  - Aurora
  - Cicero
  - Melrose Park
  - Plainfield

**<u>goladderup.org/locations</u>
for full list and days/hours of operation**

FREE TAX PREP

Available from
January 29 - April 18

For households earning up to $58,000 annually or single filers earning up to $32,000 annually

2021 & 2018 will be prioritized this year

Make an appointment TODAY!

Scan the QR Code

or

Call (312) 588-6900

Scan to schedule appointment

*MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- [ ] **Original** Social Security card /ITIN for everyone on your return

- [ ] A valid form of **photo ID**

- [ ] Bank routing & account numbers

- [ ] Verification of **health insurance** through the **Marketplace (Form 1095-A)**

- [ ] If you are married filing jointly, **both spouses must be present**

2. YEAR-END INCOME STATEMENTS

- [ ] **W-2** for each job

- [ ] **1099-MISC, 1099-NEC or 1099-K** for self-employment income, including case income and rideshare work (Uber/Lyft)

- [ ] **1099 forms** for retirement, Social Security, **unemployment**, interest, dividends. and stock sales

- [ ] **Letters to bring:**
  -**1444-C** for the 3rd stimulus check (EIP3)
  -**6419** for the Advanced Child Tax Credit

3. EXPENSES & CREDITS

- [ ] **Educational expenses** paid for children in grades K-12

- [ ] **Tuition expenses** paid to attend college or university (Form 1098-T)

- [ ] **Student loan interest paid** (Form 1098-E)

- [ ] **Childcare expenses:** Provider name, address, & tax ID or social security number

- [ ] **Homeowners:** Mortgage interest & Property taxes paid

INELIGIBLE SITUATIONS – Please visit our website at: https://www.goladderup.org/our-services/tax-assistance/#services

For the latest updates on closures due to weather or holidays, visit goladderup.org or follow us on Facebook (@GoLadderUp)

LADDER UP

Online Option for Tax Prep - eTAP

- Use computer or Smart phone
- answer questions and upload IDs and tax documents
- A tax preparer will prepare your return which you can review
- Return is electronically signed and transmitted

Who Qualifies?

- Tax Years and Amendments for 2021, 2020, or 2019
- Household income under 73,000
- US Citizen or Resident Alien
- Rental income and business losses excluded

goladderup.org/etap

GET STARTED!
Use the QR code to visit the eTAP site!

Tax Clinic

- Through its Tax Clinic staff and panel of pro bono attorneys and tax professionals, Ladder Up provides free representation to income-eligible taxpayers involved in tax controversies with the IRS and Illinois Department of Revenue.
  - **Common Tax Clinic Cases include**
    - **Collections** – The Clinic assists taxpayers who owe money to set up hardship alternatives, payment plans, or negotiate for IRS Offer in Compromise settlement of their debt.
    - **Audits and Tax Court** – The Clinic assists taxpayers responding to Audits or disputing Audit results in the U.S. Tax Court by proving credits, deductions, income, or dependents disallowed on their return.
    - **Identity Theft** – The Clinic helps taxpayers prove their identity to the IRS when they have been victims of identity theft by a bad actor attempting to steal their refund or a fraudulent return preparer.
    - We can help when someone has been claimed as a dependent incorrectly by someone else or when a person's dependent has been incorrectly claimed by someone else.

Financial Capabilities Program

Through our Financial Capabilities program, we offer education and assistance with financial literacy and economic building blocks for youth and adults
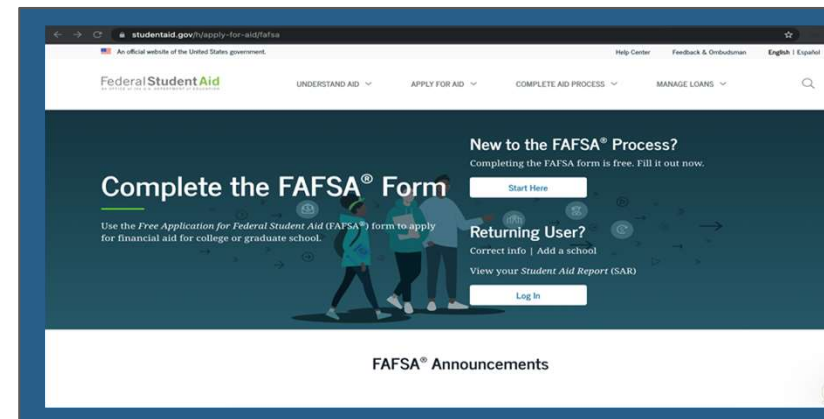
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FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (**FAFSA**) is a form completed by current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

The **FAFSA** is different than **CSS Profile** which is also required by some colleges (primarily private ones). The CSS is a *fee-based* product of the College Board (a private non-profit organization) and is usually used by the colleges to distribute their own institutional funding rather than federal or state funding.

Graduation Requirement: "Illinois State law requires all Illinois public high school seniors to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma."

THANK YOU FROM LADDER UP!

LADDER UP

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