

Maintain Funding for Free Tax Preparation Services!

Amendment #806: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Filed by Senator Pavel Payano

VITA sites are an essential community-based resource that provides free and competent tax preparation services to low- and moderate-income families as well as individuals who are elderly, disable, or have limited English Proficiency. These sites offer a high-quality alternative to paid tax preparers and ensure that families can claim and keep the full amount of tax credits, which they have earned and are eligible – including the EITC and recently expanded Child and Family Tax Credit.

Line-item support for VITA (1201-0100) is essential to ensure sites are fully staffed and able to offer extensive hours, both of which enable more families to access these services.

However, for the first time since investing in VITA, the SWM FY2026 budget fails to specify the level of funds allocated to the program. Amendment #806 would restore language and maintain \$820,000 in support for VITA, matching the House-passed FY2026 budget.



\$1.44 activity generated per \$1 accessed



30,000+ served across
Massachusetts



\$60M in tax credits claimed



Return on Investment is **60:1**

80 sites
across MA



Cost per client

Supporting Organizations

The Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition is a statewide network of advocates working to improve the health and well-being of Massachusetts children and families by expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit and Child and Family Tax Credit. Our growing coalition is led by Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center.

- ABCD/Action for Boston Community Development
- ACT Lawrence
- Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
- Amor Agape Servicios Comunitarios
- Boston Children's Hospital
- The Boston Foundation
- Boston Medical Center
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Tax Help Coalition
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Brazilian Worker Center
- Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)
- Center for Public Representation
- Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance
- Children's HealthWatch
- Children's League of Massachusetts
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (NDC)
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- Community Action Pioneer Valley
- Community Economic Development Center, New Bedford
- Dominican Development Center, Inc.
- Dragonfly Financial Solutions LLC
- Ellis Early Learning
- EMPath
- Empowered and Dedicated to Edify the Nation (EDEN)
- Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- Fortezela, Inc.
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc.
- Groundwork Lawrence
- Horizons for Homeless Children
- Housing Families, Inc.
- Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.
- Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA)
- Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Jewish Family Service of Metrowest Massachusetts
- Jewish Vocational Services, Boston
- La Colaborativa
- Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)
- Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC)
- Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center
- Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- Massachusetts Head Start Association
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
- Massachusetts Public Health Alliance
- Medical-Legal Partnership Boston (MLPB)
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank
- Midas Collaborative
- National Consumer Law Center
- The Neighborhood Developers
- Neighborhood Villages
- One Family, Inc.
- Paula's Barn Child Care
- People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE)
- Project Bread
- RESULTS MA
- Rian Immigrant Center
- Rosie's Place
- SomerPromise, City of Somerville
- SkillWorks
- Square One
- St. Anthony's Food Pantry
- Strategies for Children
- StreetCred
- Three Sisters
- TOOTRIS Child Care On-Demand
- Transition House
- True Alliance Center Inc.
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay
- Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID)
- Women's Money Matters
- Worcester Community Action Council
- Worcester County Food Bank
- YWCA Cambridge

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