



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Tax Filing Best Practices



PROTECT YOUR DOLLARS

Taxpayers should be wary of the following:

- Fictitious claims for refunds or rebates based on excess or withheld Social Security benefits.
- Claims that Treasury Form 1080 can be used to transfer funds from the Social Security Administration to the IRS enabling a payout from the IRS.
- Unfamiliar for-profit tax services teaming up with local churches.
- Home-made flyers and brochures implying credits or refunds are available without proof of eligibility.
- Offers of free money with no documentation required.
- Promises of refunds for “Low Income – No Documents Tax Returns.”
- Claims for the expired Economic Recovery Credit Program or Recovery Rebate Credit.
- Advice on claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit based on exaggerated reports of self-employment income.
- Beware of high costs for instant filing of your return and refund anticipation loans

Return Preparer Fraud:

Dishonest tax return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their ploys. Such preparers derive financial gain by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds. Choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. No matter who prepares your tax return you are ultimately responsible for its accuracy and for any tax bill that may arise due to a questionable claim.

Identity Theft:

It pays to be choosy when it comes to disclosing personal information. Identity thieves have used stolen personal data to access financial accounts, run up charges on credit cards, and apply for new loans. The IRS is aware of several identity theft scams involving taxes or scammers posing as the IRS itself. The IRS does not use e-mail to contact taxpayers about issues related to their accounts.

Anyone with questions about a tax credit or program should visit www.IRS.gov, call the IRS toll-free number at **800-829-1040**, or visit a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition will be preparing taxes for free, look for up-dates at www.refundohio.org, once the events are scheduled you can call **2-1-1 (United Way First Call for Help)** to set up your appointment.

“Dedicated to the protection of Cleveland Consumers”

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