



IRS encourages taxpayers to prepare for 2025 filing season with online tools and key reminders

IR-2024-297, Nov. 22, 2024

WASHINGTON — As the nation's tax season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding people of [simple steps](#) they can take now to prepare to file their 2024 federal tax returns.

This reminder is part of the IRS's "Get Ready" campaign to help everyone prepare for the upcoming filing season in early 2025.

“Our focus at the IRS continues to be on making tax filing easier and more accessible for everyone,” said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. “We’ve added more digital tools to help taxpayers. But as tax season quickly approaches, the IRS reminds taxpayers there are important steps they can take now to get ready for 2025. From reviewing withholding to signing up for an IRS Online Account, there are multiple ways for people to help make the 2025 filing season easier.”

As the IRS continues its historic transformation work, the agency continues introducing new online tools as well as expanding and updating other [digital tools](#). These are designed to help taxpayers and make tax filing easier.

Access IRS Online Account for helpful information

Taxpayers can create or access their [IRS Online Account](#), where they can find all their tax related information for the 2025 filing season. New users will need to have a photo ID ready to verify their identity. Through their IRS Online Account, taxpayers can:

- View key details from their most recent tax return, such as adjusted gross income.
- Request an Identity Protection PIN.
- Get account transcripts to include wage and income records.
- Sign tax forms like powers of attorney or tax information authorizations.
- View and edit language preferences and alternative media (such as braille, large print, etc.).
- Receive and view over 200 IRS electronic notices.
- View, make and cancel payments.
- Set up or change payment plans and check their balance.

Gather and organize tax documents

Having well-organized tax records can make filing a complete and accurate return easier and help avoid errors that can delay refunds. This may also help identify deductions or credits that may have been overlooked.

Most income is taxable, including [unemployment compensation](#), refund interest and income from the [gig economy](#) and [digital assets](#). Taxpayers should watch for and gather essential forms, such as [Forms W-2, Wage and Tax Statement](#), and other income documents.

It's also important to notify the IRS of any [address changes](#) and the [Social Security Administration](#) of any legal name changes.



Check withholding before the end of 2024

The IRS [Tax Withholding Estimator](#) on IRS.gov can help taxpayers make sure the correct amount of tax is withheld from their paychecks. This tool is especially useful for individuals who owed taxes or received large refunds last year, or those who have experienced [life changes](#) such as marriage, [divorce](#), or the welcoming of a child. Taxpayers who need to adjust their withholding can update their information with their employer using [Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate](#).

Time is running out to make changes for 2024, as only a few pay periods remain in the year. Taxpayers need to act quickly to make any adjustments.

Get refunds faster with direct deposit

The fastest and most secure way to receive a tax refund is through [direct deposit](#). Taxpayers can direct their refund to a bank account, banking app or reloadable debit card by providing their routing and account numbers. If the routing and account number cannot be located, taxpayers should contact their bank, financial institution or app provider.

According to Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, paper refund checks are 16 times more likely to be lost, misdirected, stolen or uncashed compared to those paid using direct deposit.

Individuals without a bank account can explore options for opening one through [FDIC-insured banks](#) or a credit union using the [National Credit Union Locator tool](#). Veterans can use the [Veterans Benefits Banking Program](#) to find participating financial institutions.

Volunteer to help others with their taxes

The IRS and its community partners are seeking volunteers from around the country to join the [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) and [Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) programs. These programs offer free tax preparation services to eligible taxpayers. Interested individuals can learn more and sign up by visiting [IRS.gov](#).

Helpful IRS resources and online tools

IRS.gov is a valuable resource for taxpayers, offering a variety of [online tools](#) like the Individual Online Account available 24/7. These tools help individuals file and pay taxes, track refunds, access account information and get answers to tax questions. Taxpayers are encouraged to bookmark these resources for easy access.

Choosing a tax professional

Tax professionals play an essential role in the U.S. tax system. Certified public accountants, Enrolled Agents, attorneys and others without formal credentials are just a few of the professionals who help taxpayers file their returns accurately. It is important to [choose a professional](#) who is skilled and trustworthy.

Most tax return professionals provide great service but picking the wrong one can hurt taxpayers financially. The IRS offers [tips for choosing a tax preparer](#).

People can use the [IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#) to find qualified professionals.



Give more, tax-free: Eligible IRA owners can donate up to \$105,000 to charity in 2024

IR-2024-289, Nov. 14, 2024

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service reminds individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ and older that they can make up to \$105,000 in tax-free charitable donations during 2024 through qualified charitable distributions. That's up from \$100,000 in past years.

For those age 73 or older, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) also count toward the year's required minimum distribution (RMD).

Generally, IRA distributions are taxable, but QCDs remain tax-free if sent directly to a qualified charity by the trustee. To make a QCD for 2024, IRA owners should contact their IRA trustee soon to ensure the transaction completes by year-end.

Each eligible IRA owner can exclude up to \$105,000 in QCDs from taxable income. Married couples, if both meet qualifications and have separate IRAs, can donate up to \$210,000 combined. QCDs don't require itemizing deductions.

For those planning ahead, starting this year, the QCD limit is subject to annual adjustment, based on inflation. For that reason, the annual QCD limit will rise to \$108,000 in 2025.

Reporting and documenting QCDs

For 2024, QCDs should be reported on the 2024 tax return. IRA trustees will issue [Form 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.](#), in early 2025 documenting IRA distributions.

The full amount of any IRA distribution goes on Line 4a of [Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](#), or [Form 1040-SR, U.S. Tax Return for Seniors](#). Enter "0" on Line 4b if the full amount is a QCD, marking it as such.

Donors must obtain a written acknowledgement from the charity showing the contribution date, amount and confirmation that no goods or services were received.

For more details, see [Publication 526, Charitable Contributions](#), and [Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements \(IRAs\)](#).



Business Tax Account now gives many business taxpayers new options for making payments easier; available in both English, Spanish; more features coming soon

FS-2024-27, August 2024

The Internal Revenue Service is continuing to expand the features within [Business Tax Account \(BTA\)](#), an online self-service tool for business taxpayers that now allows them to view and make balance-due payments.

Launched last fall, BTA is a key part of the agency's service improvement initiative funded under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). When fully developed, BTA will allow many types of business taxpayers to check their tax history, make payments, view notices, authorize powers of attorney and conduct other business with the IRS.

With the latest expansion, an eligible business taxpayer can now use BTA to pay Federal Tax Deposits (FTDs) and see and make a payment on their full balance due – all in one place. The account is also now accessible in Spanish with more translations planned.

BTA is a key part of the agency's ongoing work to transform and modernize service at the IRS by offering a seamless and convenient digital experience. It's also an important part of a wide-ranging initiative to [reduce paper-based processes](#) that hamper the IRS and frustrate taxpayers.

Who can use BTA now?

Business taxpayers who can activate and use their IRS business tax account include:

- A sole proprietor who has an Employer Identification Number (EIN) issued by the IRS.
- An individual partner or individual shareholder with both:
 - A Social Security number or an individual tax ID number (ITIN).
 - A Schedule K-1 on file (for partners, from 2012-2023; for shareholders, from 2006-2023).

Currently, a limited liability company that reports business income on a Schedule C can't access Business Tax Account. Future access will be available for these businesses, as well as other entities including tax-exempt organizations, government agencies, partnerships, C corporations and S corporations.

What can business taxpayers do now?

Within BTA, business taxpayers can now:

- View and make a payment toward a balance due by using a bank account. This includes a payment on a return filed for the current year as well as late payments for past tax years and Federal Tax Deposits.
- Schedule a payment for any business day for up to a year and cancel a scheduled payment.
- View recently processed payments, including payments made through the [Electronic Federal Tax Payment System \(EFTPS\)](#) online, wire transfers, checks or money orders, and see if any payments were returned or refused.
- Store multiple bank accounts in their online "wallet" to manage tax payments.
- Request a tax compliance check.
- View the business name and address on file.
- Give account access to employees of the business.
- Register for clean energy credits (if eligible).
- View and download transcripts for various payroll, income and excise tax returns.
- Sole proprietors can now download business entity transcripts from their BTA account. The transcript shows entity information like business name, mailing address, location address and more for the Employer Identification Number on file.
- View and download select digital notices including:
 - [CP080](#): Reminder - We Have Not Received Your Return, Credits May be on Your Account.
 - [CP136](#): Annual Notification of Federal Tax Deposit (FTD) Requirements (Forms: 941, 941-SS).
 - [CP216F](#): Application for Extension of Time to File an Employee Plan Return – Approved.



What new features will be added to BTA in the future?

Future capabilities made available through funding from the IRA will enable access by all business and organizational entities and help the business tax account become a robust online self-service tool.

To set up a new business tax account, or for more information visit [Business Tax Account](#).