

Chester County Senior Centers Providing Free Tax Assistance to Senior Citizens

With April 15 closer than you think, low and moderate income senior citizens can rest easier knowing that **FREE** tax preparation assistance is available at their local senior center. Now through April 14, IRS-trained volunteers are available to help low-and moderate-income individuals with special attention to those aged 60 and older to file federal, state, and local returns with the 1040 tax form and basic schedules at no cost through the AARP Tax Aide Program.

The following Chester County senior centers are AARP tax preparation centers: Phoenixville, Coatesville, Downingtown, Oxford, Kennett Square, and West Chester. Appointments are required; contact the senior center of your choice. The following items must be brought to all appointments:

- last years tax return
- Social Security 1099 form
- all 1099 forms (1099INT, 1099DIV, 1099R, 1099G, 1098B, 1099MISC)
- W-2 from all employers
- unemployment compensation
- real estate tax receipts
- medical & dental receipts, if itemizing
- donation receipts, if itemizing
- receipts of estimated taxes paid
- social security cards or other official documentation for yourself and all dependents

AARP Tax Aide volunteers are knowledgeable on the tax laws that apply to senior citizens. Here are a few tax tips for senior citizens:

- Property tax rebates are available for homeowners over 65 with income of \$35,000 or less.
- Renters over 65 may qualify for rebates if their income is less than \$15,000.
- PA requires a tax return if your income (wages, interest, dividends etc.) are more than \$33.00.
- If you purchased a new car or paid real estate taxes, your standard deduction will be increased without having to itemize.
- Many seniors qualify for tax forgiveness of Pennsylvania taxes owed.

There are six senior centers in Chester County - Coatesville Area Senior Center, Downingtown Area Senior Center, Kennett Area Senior Center, Oxford Area Senior Center, Phoenixville Area Senior Center, and West Chester Area Senior Center. Each senior center is dedicated to supporting the independence and well-being of adults ages 60 and over. Each senior center provides an array of services and programs, including meals, exercise, educational workshops, and referral services. For more information and to find the senior center nearest you, visit www.ChesterCountySeniors.org.

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