

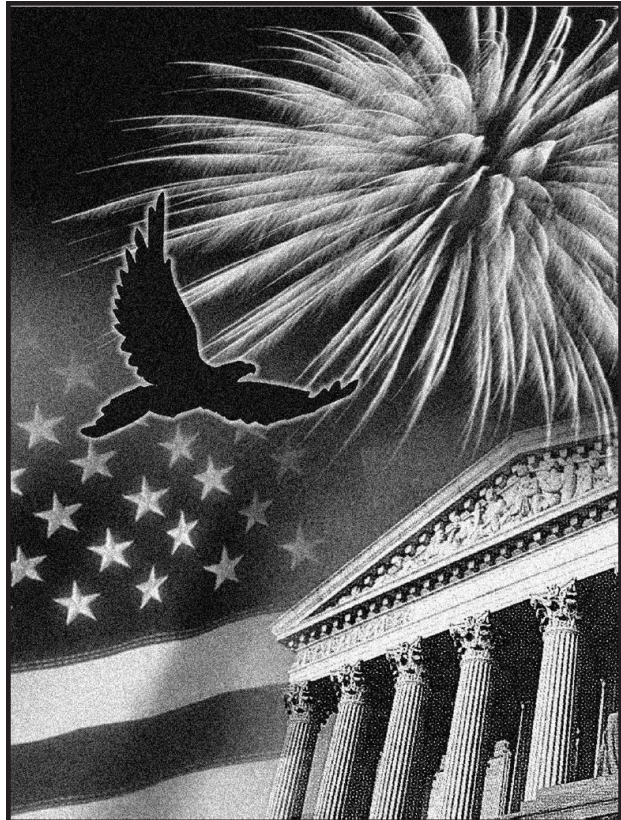
Publication 926

Household Employer's Tax Guide

For use in preparing

2025 Returns

Volume 2 of 2



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You may be subject to the estimated tax underpayment penalty if you didn't pay enough income and household employment taxes during the year. (See Pub. 505 for information about the underpayment penalty.) However, you won't be subject to the penalty if both of the following situations apply to you.

- You won't have federal income tax withheld from wages, pensions, or any other payments you receive.
- Your income taxes, excluding your household employment taxes, wouldn't be enough to require payment of estimated taxes.

Asking for more federal income tax withholding. If you're employed and want more federal income tax withheld from your wages to cover your household employment taxes, give your employer a new Form W-4.

Complete Form W-4 and show the additional amount you want withheld from each paycheck on the appropriate line of Form W-4.

If you receive a pension or annuity and want more federal income tax withheld to cover household employment taxes, give the payer a new Form W-4P (or a similar form provided by the payer). Complete Form W-4P and show the additional amount you want withheld from each benefit payment on the appropriate line of Form W-4P.

See Pub. 505 to make sure you will have the right amount withheld. It will help you compare your total expected withholding for 2025 with the combined income tax and employment taxes that you can expect to figure on your 2025 tax return. You may also use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator available at [IRS.gov/W4app](https://www.irs.gov/W4app) to estimate the amount of your federal income taxes.

Paying estimated tax. If you want to make estimated tax payments to cover household employment taxes, get Form 1040-ES. You can use its payment vouchers to make your payments by check or money order. Estimated tax payments can also be made by cash, credit or debit card, and several electronic payment methods. For details, see the form instructions or go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments).

You can pay all the employment taxes at once or you can pay them in installments. If you have already made some estimated tax payments for 2025, you should increase your remaining payments to cover the employment taxes. Estimated tax payments for 2025 are due April 15, June 16, and September 15, 2025, and January 15, 2026.

Payment option for business employers. If you own a business or a farm operated for profit, you can choose either of two ways to pay your 2025 household employment taxes.

You can pay them with your federal income tax as previously described, or you can include them with your federal employment tax deposits or other payments for your business or farm employees. For information on depositing employment taxes, see section 11 of Pub. 15.

If you pay your household employment taxes with your business or farm employment taxes, you must report your household employment taxes with those other employment taxes on Form 941, Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return; Form 944, Employer's ANNUAL Federal Tax Return; or Form 943, Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return for Agricultural Employees, and Form 940, Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return. See *Business employment tax returns*, later.



The deduction that can be taken on Schedules C and F (Form 1040) for wages and employment taxes applies

only to wages and taxes paid for business and farm employees. You can't deduct the wages and employment taxes paid for your household employees on your Schedule C or F.

More information. For more information about paying taxes through federal income tax withholding and estimated tax payments, and figuring the estimated tax penalty, see Pub. 505.

What Forms Must You File?

You must file certain forms to report your household employee's wages and the federal employment taxes for the employee if you pay any of the following wages to the employee.

- Social security and Medicare wages.
- FUTA wages.
- Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

For information on getting employment tax forms, see *How To Get Tax Help*, later.

Employer identification number (EIN).

You must include your EIN on the forms you file for your household employee. An EIN is a nine-digit number issued by the IRS. It isn't the same as an SSN.



You will ordinarily have an EIN if you previously paid taxes for employees, either as a household employer or as a sole proprietor of a business you own. If you already have an EIN, use that number.

If you don't have an EIN, you may apply for one online by going to [IRS.gov/EIN](https://www.irs.gov/EIN). You may also apply for an EIN by faxing or mailing Form SS-4 to the IRS. If you are an international applicant, you may apply for an EIN by calling 267-941-1099 (toll call), Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Form W-2. File a separate 2025 Form W-2 for each household employee to whom you pay either of the following wages during the year.

- Social security and Medicare wages of \$2,800 or more.
- Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

You must complete Form W-2 and give Copies B, C, and 2 to your employee by February 2, 2026. You must also send Copy A of Form W-2 with Form W-3 to the SSA by February 2, 2026. We encourage you to file Form W-2 electronically. Electronic filing is available to all employers and is free, fast, and secure. Go to the SSA's Employer W-2 Filing Instructions & Information website at [SSA.gov/ employer](https://ssa.gov/employer) for guidelines on filing electronically. If filing electronically via the SSA's W-2 Online service, the SSA will generate Form W-3 data from the electronic submission of Form(s) W-2; no separate Form W-3 is required.

If you're not required to file Form W-2, we encourage you to provide your household employee with a receipt for services that includes the dates worked, wages paid, and a general description of work completed. This receipt will help the household employee to report their wages on Form 1040 or 1040-SR.

Employee who leaves during the year. If an employee stops working for you before the end of 2025, you can file Form W-2 and provide copies to your employee immediately after you make your final payment of wages. You don't need to wait until 2026. If the employee asks you for Form W-2, give it to them within 30 days after the request or the last wage payment, whichever is later.

Schedule H. Use Schedule H (Form 1040) to report household employment taxes if you pay any of the following wages to the employee.

- Social security and Medicare wages of \$2,800 or more.

- FUTA wages.
- Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

File Schedule H (Form 1040) with your 2025 federal income tax return by April 15, 2026. If you get an extension to file your return, the extension will also apply to your Schedule H.

Filing options when no return is required.

If you're not required to file a 2025 tax return, you have the following two options.

1. You can file Schedule H (Form 1040) by itself. See the Schedule H (Form 1040) instructions for details.
2. If, besides your household employee, you have other employees for whom you report employment taxes on Form 941, Form 944, or Form 943 and on Form 940, you can include your taxes for your household employee on those forms. See *Business employment tax returns* next.

Employers having the options previously listed include certain tax-exempt organizations that don't have to file a tax return, such as churches that pay a household worker to take care of a minister's home.

Business employment tax returns. Don't use Schedule H (Form 1040) if you choose to pay the employment taxes for your household employee with business or farm employment taxes. (See *Payment option for business employers*, earlier.) Instead, include the social security, Medicare, and withheld federal income taxes for the employee on the Form 941 or Form 944 you file for your business or on the Form 943 you file for your farm. Include the FUTA tax for the employee on your Form 940.

If you report the employment taxes for your household employee on Form 941, Form 943, or Form 944, file Form W-2 for that employee

with the Form(s) W-2 and Form W-3 for your business or farm employees.

For information on filing Form 941, Form 943, or Form 944, see Pub. 15. Pub. 15 also provides information about filing Form 940.

Forms in Spanish

Many forms and instructions discussed in this publication have Spanish-language versions available for employers and employees. Some examples include Form 941 (sp), Form 944 (sp), Form SS-4 (sp), and Form W-4 (sp). Although this publication doesn't reference Spanish-language forms and instructions in each instance that one is available, you can see Pub. 15 (sp) and go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to determine if a Spanish-language version is available.

What Records Must You Keep?



Keep your copies of Schedule H (Form 1040) or other employment tax forms you file and related Forms W-2, W-3, and W-4. You must also keep records to support the information you enter on the forms you file. If you must file Form W-2, you will need to keep a record of your employee's name, address, and SSN.

Wage and tax records. On each payday, you should record the date and amounts of all the following items.

- Your employee's cash and noncash wages.
- Any employee social security tax you withhold or agree to pay for your employee.
- Any employee Medicare tax you withhold or agree to pay for your employee.
- Any federal income tax you withhold.
- Any state employment taxes you withhold.

Employee's SSN. You must keep a record of your employee's name and SSN exactly as they appear on their social security card if you pay the employee either of the following.

- Social security and Medicare wages of \$2,800 or more.
- Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

You must ask for your employee's SSN no later than the first day on which you pay the wages. You may consider asking for it when you hire your employee. You should ask your employee to show you their social security card. The employee may show the card if it is available. You may, but aren't required to, photocopy the card if the employee provides it.

An employee who doesn't have an SSN must apply for one on Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card. An employee who has lost their social security card or whose name

isn't correctly shown on the card may apply for a replacement card.



You can download Form SS-5 from the SSA website at [SSA.gov/online/ss-5.pdf](https://ssa.gov/online/ss-5.pdf).



Employees can also get Form SS-5 from any SSA office or by calling 800-772-1213 or 800-325-0778 (TTY).

How long to keep records. Keep your employment tax records for at least 4 years after the due date of the return on which you report the taxes or the date the taxes were paid, whichever is later.

Can You Claim a Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses?

If your household employee cares for your dependent who is under age 13 or for your spouse or dependent who isn't capable of self-care, you may be able to take an income tax credit against some of your expenses. To

qualify, you must pay these expenses so you can work or look for work. If you can take the credit, you can include in your qualifying expenses your share of the federal and state employment taxes you pay, as well as the employee's wages. For information about the credit, see Pub. 503.

How Can You Correct Schedule H?

If you discover that you made an error on a Schedule H (Form 1040) the forms used to correct the error depend on whether the Schedule H was attached to another form or whether it was filed by itself.

Schedule H attached to another form. If you discover an error on a Schedule H that you previously filed with Form 1040, 1040-SR, or 1040-NR, file Form 1040-X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and attach a corrected Schedule H. If you discover an error on a Schedule H that you previously filed with Form 1040-SS, file a new Form

1040-SS and attach a corrected Schedule H. If you discover an error on a Schedule H that you previously filed with Form 1041, file an "Amended" Form 1041 and attach a corrected Schedule H.

Schedule H filed by itself. If you discover an error on a Schedule H that you filed as a stand-alone return, file another stand-alone Schedule H with the corrected information. In the top margin of your corrected Schedule H, write (in bold letters) "**CORRECTED**" followed by the date you discovered the error. In addition, explain the reason for your correction and the date the error was discovered in a statement attached to the corrected Schedule H. If you have an overpayment, also write "ADJUSTED" or "REFUND" in the top margin, depending on whether you want to adjust your overpayment or claim a refund. (See Overpayment of tax, later.)

When to file. File a corrected Schedule H when you discover an error on a previously filed Schedule H. If you're correcting an underpayment, file a corrected Schedule H no later than the due date of your next tax return (generally, April 15 of the following calendar year) after you discover the error. If you're correcting an overpayment, file a corrected Schedule H within the refund period of limitations (generally, 3 years from the date your original form was filed or within 2 years from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later).

Underpayment of tax. You must pay any underpayment of social security and Medicare taxes by the time you file the corrected Schedule H. Generally, by filing on time and paying by the time you file the return, you won't be charged interest (and won't be subject to failure-to-pay or estimated tax penalties) on the balance due.

However, underreported FUTA taxes will be subject to interest.

Overpayment of tax. You may either adjust or claim a refund of an overpayment of social security and Medicare taxes on a previously filed Schedule H. However, if you're correcting an overpayment and are filing the corrected Schedule H within 90 days of the expiration of the period of limitations, you can only claim a refund of the overpayment.

Adjust the overpayment. If the corrected Schedule H is filed with a Form 1040-X or an amended Form 1041, adjust your return by indicating on line 23 of the Form 1040-X or on line 30a of the Form 1041 that you would like the overpayment applied to your estimated taxes on Form 1040, Form 1040-SR, Form 1040-SS, Form 1040-NR, or Form 1041 for the year in which you're filing the corrected Schedule H. If the corrected Schedule H is filed as a stand-alone return, adjust your return by writing "**ADJUSTED**" in

the top margin (in bold letters). If you adjust your return, you won't receive interest on your overpayment. If the corrected Schedule H will be filed within 90 days of the expiration of the refund period of limitations, you may not adjust the return and must claim a refund for the overpayment. You may not adjust your return to correct overpayments of FUTA tax.

Claim for refund process. If the corrected Schedule H is filed with a Form 1040-X or an amended Form 1041, claim a refund by indicating that you would like the overpayment refunded to you on Form 1040-X, line 22, or Form 1041, line 30b. If the corrected Schedule H is filed as a stand-alone return, claim a refund by writing “**REFUND**” in the top margin (in bold letters). You will receive interest on any overpayment refunded, unless the overpayment is for FUTA tax because you were entitled to increased credits for state contributions.

Required repayment or consent. If you previously overreported social security and Medicare taxes, you may adjust your overpayment only after you've repaid or reimbursed your employees the amount of the overcollection of employee tax. You reimburse your employees by applying the overwithheld amount against taxes to be withheld on future wages. You may claim a refund for the overpayment only after you've repaid or reimbursed your employees the amount of the overcollection or you've obtained consents from your employees to file the claim for refund for the employee tax. Include a statement that you repaid or reimbursed your employees, or obtained their written consents in the case of a claim for refund, in Part II of Form 1040-X or in a statement attached to the amended Form 1041 or the stand-alone corrected Schedule H.

Filing required for Forms W-2 or Forms W-2c.

Whether you previously underreported tax or overreported tax, you will generally be required to file Form W-2, or their territorial equivalents (if none was previously filed), or Form W-2c to reflect the changes reported on your corrected Schedule H.

Additional Medicare Tax. Generally, you may not correct an error in Additional Medicare Tax withholding for wages paid to employees in a prior year unless it is an administrative error. An administrative error occurs if the amount you entered on Schedule H isn't the amount you actually withheld. For example, if the Additional Medicare Tax actually withheld was incorrectly reported on Schedule H due to a mathematical or transposition error, this would be an administrative error. If a prior year error was a nonadministrative error, you may correct

only the **wages** subject to Additional Medicare Tax withholding.

Any underwithheld Additional Medicare Tax must be recovered from employees on or before the last day of the calendar year in which the underwithholding occurred. Any excess Additional Medicare Tax withholding must be repaid or reimbursed to employees before the end of the calendar year in which it was withheld.

Additional information. For more information about correcting errors on a previously filed Schedule H, see **Form 944-X: Which process should you use?** on page 6 of Form 944-X, and the Instructions for Form 944-X (substitute "Schedule H" for "Form 944-X"). Also go to [IRS.gov/ CorrectingEmploymentTaxes](https://www.irs.gov/CorrectingEmploymentTaxes) for general information about correcting employment taxes.

How To Get Tax Help

If you have questions about a tax issue; need help preparing your tax return; or want to download free publications, forms, or instructions, go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to find resources that can help you right away.

Preparing and filing your tax return.

After receiving all your wage and earnings statements (Forms W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC, 1099-NEC, etc.); unemployment compensation statements (by mail or in a digital format) or other government payment statements (Form 1099-G); and interest, dividend, and retirement statements from banks and investment firms (Forms 1099), you have several options to choose from to prepare and file your tax return. You can prepare the tax return yourself, see if you qualify for free tax preparation, or hire a tax professional to prepare your return.

Free options for tax preparation. Your options for preparing and filing your return online or in your local community, if you qualify, include the following.

- **Direct File.** Direct File is a permanent option to file individual federal tax returns online—for free—directly and securely with the IRS. Direct File is an option for taxpayers in participating states who have relatively simple tax returns reporting certain types of income and claiming certain credits and deductions. While Direct File doesn't prepare state returns, if you live in a participating state, Direct File guides you to a state-supported tool you can use to prepare and file your state tax return for free. Go to [IRS.gov/DirectFile](https://www.irs.gov/DirectFile) for more information, program updates, and frequently asked questions.

- **Free File.** This program lets you prepare and file your federal individual income tax return for free using software or Free File Fillable Forms. However, state tax preparation may not be available through Free File. Go to [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) to see if you qualify for free online federal tax preparation, e-filing, and direct deposit or payment options.
- **VITA.** The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people with low-to-moderate incomes, persons with disabilities, and limited-English-speaking taxpayers who need help preparing their own tax returns. Go to [IRS.gov/ VITA](https://www.irs.gov/VITA), download the free IRS2Go app, or call 800-906-9887 for information on free tax return preparation.

- **TCE.** The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older. TCE volunteers specialize in answering questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. Go to [IRS.gov/TCE](https://www.irs.gov/TCE) or download the free IRS2Go app for information on free tax return preparation.
- **MilTax.** Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified veterans may use MilTax, a free tax service offered by the Department of Defense through Military OneSource. For more information, go to [MilitaryOneSource](https://www.militaryonesource.com) ([MilitaryOneSource.mil/MilTax](https://www.militaryonesource.com/MilTax)).

Also, the IRS offers Free Fillable Forms, which can be completed online and then e-filed regardless of income.

Using online tools to help prepare your return. Go to [IRS.gov/Tools](https://www.irs.gov/Tools) for the following.

- [IRS.gov/DirectFile](https://www.irs.gov/DirectFile) offers an Eligibility Checker to help you determine if Direct File is the right choice for your tax filing needs.
- The [Earned Income Tax Credit Assistant \(IRS.gov/ EITCAssistant\)](https://www.irs.gov/EITCAssistant) determines if you're eligible for the earned income credit (EIC).
- The [Online EIN Application \(IRS.gov/EIN\)](https://www.irs.gov/EIN) helps you get an employer identification number (EIN) at no cost.
- The [Tax Withholding Estimator \(IRS.gov/W4App\)](https://www.irs.gov/W4App) makes it easier for you to estimate the federal income tax you want your employer to withhold from your paycheck. This is tax withholding. See how your withholding affects your refund, take-home pay, or tax due.

- The [First-Time Homebuyer Credit Account Look-up \(IRS.gov/HomeBuyer\)](https://www.irs.gov/first-time-homebuyer-credit-account-look-up) tool provides information on your repayments and account balance.
- The [Sales Tax Deduction Calculator \(IRS.gov/ SalesTax\)](https://www.irs.gov/sales-tax-deduction-calculator) figures the amount you can claim if you itemize deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040).



Getting answers to your tax questions. On IRS.gov, you can get up-to-date information on current events and changes in tax law.

- [IRS.gov/Help](https://www.irs.gov/help): A variety of tools to help you get answers to some of the most common tax questions.
- [IRS.gov/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/ita): The Interactive Tax Assistant, a tool that will ask you questions and, based on your input, provide answers on a number of tax topics.

- [IRS.gov/Forms](https://www.irs.gov/forms): Find forms, instructions, and publications. You will find details on the most recent tax changes and interactive links to help you find answers to your questions.
- You may also be able to access tax information in your e-filing software.

Need someone to prepare your tax return? There are various types of tax return preparers, including enrolled agents, certified public accountants (CPAs), accountants, and many others who don't have professional credentials. If you choose to have someone prepare your tax return, choose that preparer wisely. A paid tax preparer is:

- Primarily responsible for the overall substantive accuracy of your return,
- Required to sign the return, and
- Required to include their preparer tax identification number (PTIN).



Although the tax preparer always signs the return, you're ultimately responsible for providing all the information required for the preparer to accurately prepare your return and for the accuracy of every item reported on the return. Anyone paid to prepare tax returns for others should have a thorough understanding of tax matters. For more information on how to choose a tax preparer, go to [Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer](#) on IRS.gov.

Employers can register to use Business Services Online. The SSA offers online service at [SSA.gov/employer](https://ssa.gov/employer) for fast, free, and secure W-2 filing options to CPAs, accountants, enrolled agents, and individuals who process Form W-2, and Form W-2c.

Business tax account. If you are a sole proprietor, a partnership, or an S corporation, you can view your tax information on record with the IRS and do more with a business tax

account. Go to [IRS.gov/businessaccount](https://www.irs.gov/businessaccount) for more information.

IRS social media. Go to [IRS.gov/SocialMedia](https://www.irs.gov/SocialMedia) to see the various social media tools the IRS uses to share the latest information on tax changes, scam alerts, initiatives, products, and services. At the IRS, privacy and security are our highest priority. We use these tools to share public information with you. **Don't** post your social security number (SSN) or other confidential information on social media sites. Always protect your identity when using any social networking site.

The following IRS YouTube channels provide short, informative videos on various tax-related topics in English, Spanish, and ASL.

- [Youtube.com/irsvideos](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideos).
- [Youtube.com/irsvideomultilingua](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideomultilingua).
- [Youtube.com/irsvideosASL](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideosASL).

Online tax information in other languages. You can find information on [IRS.gov/MyLanguage](https://www.irs.gov/MyLanguage) if English isn't your native language.

Free Over-the-Phone Interpreter (OPI) Service. The IRS is committed to serving taxpayers with limited-English proficiency (LEP) by offering OPI services. The OPI Service is a federally funded program and is available at Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs), most IRS offices, and every VITA/TCE tax return site. The OPI Service is accessible in more than 350 languages.

Accessibility Helpline available for taxpayers with disabilities. Taxpayers who need information about accessibility services can call 833-690-0598. The Accessibility Helpline can answer questions related to current and future accessibility products and services available in alternative media formats (for example, braille, large print, audio, etc.). The Accessibility Helpline doesn't

have access to your IRS account. For help with tax law, refunds, or account-related issues, go to [IRS.gov/LetUsHelp](https://www.irs.gov/LetUsHelp).

Alternative media preference. Form 9000, Alternative Media Preference, or Form 9000(SP) allows you to elect to receive certain types of written correspondence in the following formats.

- Standard Print.
- Large Print.
- Braille.
- Audio (MP3).
- Plain Text File (TXT).
- Braille Ready File (BRF).

Disasters. Go to [IRS.gov/DisasterRelief](https://www.irs.gov/DisasterRelief) to review the available disaster tax relief.

Getting tax forms and publications. Go to [IRS.gov/ Forms](https://www.irs.gov/Forms) to view, download, or print most of the forms, instructions, and

publications you may need. Or, you can go to [IRS.gov/OrderForms](https://www.irs.gov/OrderForms) to place an order.

Mobile-friendly forms. You'll need an IRS Online Account (OLA) to complete mobile-friendly forms that require signatures. You'll have the option to submit your form(s) online or download a copy for mailing. You'll need scans of your documents to support your submission. Go to [IRS.gov/MobileFriendlyForms](https://www.irs.gov/MobileFriendlyForms) for more information.

Getting tax publications and instructions in eBook format. Download and view most tax publications and instructions (including Pub. 926) on mobile devices as eBooks at [IRS.gov/eBooks](https://www.irs.gov/eBooks).

IRS eBooks have been tested using Apple's iBooks for iPad. Our eBooks haven't been tested on other dedicated eBook readers, and eBook functionality may not operate as intended.

Access your online account (individual taxpayers only). Go to [IRS.gov/Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account) to securely access information about your federal tax account.

- View the amount you owe and a breakdown by tax year.
- See payment plan details or apply for a new payment plan.
- Make a payment or view 5 years of payment history and any pending or scheduled payments.
- Access your tax records, including key data from your most recent tax return, and transcripts.
- View digital copies of select notices from the IRS.
- Approve or reject authorization requests from tax professionals.
- View your address on file or manage your communication preferences.

Get a transcript of your return. With an online account, you can access a variety of information to help you during the filing season. You can get a transcript, review your most recently filed tax return, and get your adjusted gross income. Create or access your online account at [IRS.gov/ Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account).

Tax Pro Account. This tool lets your tax professional submit an authorization request to access your individual taxpayer IRS OLA. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/ TaxProAccount](https://www.irs.gov/TaxProAccount).

Using direct deposit. The safest and easiest way to receive a tax refund is to e-file and choose direct deposit, which securely and electronically transfers your refund directly into your financial account. Direct deposit also avoids the possibility that your check could be lost, stolen, destroyed, or returned undeliverable to the IRS.

Eight in 10 taxpayers use direct deposit to receive their refunds. If you don't have a bank account, go to [IRS.gov/DirectDeposit](https://www.irs.gov/DirectDeposit) for more information on where to find a bank or credit union that can open an account online.

Reporting and resolving your tax-related identity theft issues.

- Tax-related identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit tax fraud. Your taxes can be affected if your SSN is used to file a fraudulent return or to claim a refund or credit.
- The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages (including shortened links), telephone calls, or social media channels to request or verify personal or financial information. This includes requests for personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords, or similar information for credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts.

- Go to [IRS.gov/IdentityTheft](https://www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft), the IRS Identity Theft Central webpage, for information on identity theft and data security protection for taxpayers, tax professionals, and businesses. If your SSN has been lost or stolen or you suspect you're a victim of tax-related identity theft, you can learn what steps you should take.
- Get an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN). IP PINs are six-digit numbers assigned to taxpayers to help prevent the misuse of their SSNs on fraudulent federal income tax returns. When you have an IP PIN, it prevents someone else from filing a tax return with your SSN. To learn more, go to [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/IPPIN).

Ways to check on the status of your refund.

- Go to [IRS.gov/Refunds](https://www.irs.gov/Refunds).

- Download the official IRS2Go app to your mobile device to check your refund status.
- Call the automated refund hotline at 800-829-1954.



The IRS can't issue refunds before mid-February for returns that claimed the EIC or the additional child tax credit (ACTC). This applies to the entire refund, not just the portion associated with these credits.

Making a tax payment. Payments of U.S. tax must be remitted to the IRS in U.S. dollars. [Digital assets](#) are **not** accepted. Go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments) for information on how to make a payment using any of the following options.

- [IRS Direct Pay](#): Pay your individual tax bill or estimated tax payment directly from your checking or savings account at no cost to you.

- [*Debit Card, Credit Card, or Digital Wallet:*](#) Choose an approved payment processor to pay online or by phone.
- [*Electronic Funds Withdrawal:*](#) Schedule a payment when filing your federal taxes using tax return preparation software or through a tax professional.
- [*Electronic Federal Tax Payment System:*](#) This is the best option for businesses. Enrollment is required.
- [*Check or Money Order:*](#) Mail your payment to the address listed on the notice or instructions.
- [*Cash:*](#) You may be able to pay your taxes with cash at a participating retail store.
- [*Same-Day Wire:*](#) You may be able to do same-day wire from your financial institution. Contact your financial institution for availability, cost, and time frames.

Note. The IRS uses the latest encryption technology to ensure that the electronic payments you make online, by phone, or from a mobile device using the IRS2Go app are safe and secure. Paying electronically is quick, easy, and faster than mailing in a check or money order.

What if I can't pay now? Go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments) for more information about your options.

- Apply for an [online payment agreement \(IRS.gov/ OPA\)](https://www.irs.gov/OPA) to meet your tax obligation in monthly installments if you can't pay your taxes in full today. Once you complete the online process, you will receive immediate notification of whether your agreement has been approved.
- Use the [Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier](https://www.irs.gov/OIC) to see if you can settle your tax debt for less than the full amount you owe. For more information on the Offer in Compromise program, go to [IRS.gov/OIC](https://www.irs.gov/OIC).

Filing an amended return. Go to [IRS.gov/Form1040X](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040X) for information and updates.

Checking the status of your amended return. Go to [IRS.gov/WMAR](https://www.irs.gov/WMAR) to track the status of Form 1040-X amended returns.



It can take up to 3 weeks from the date you filed your amended return for it to show up in our system, and processing it can take up to 16 weeks.

Understanding an IRS notice or letter you've received. Go to [IRS.gov/Notices](https://www.irs.gov/Notices) to find additional information about responding to an IRS notice or letter.

IRS Document Upload Tool. You may be able use the Document Upload Tool to respond digitally to eligible IRS notices and letters by securely uploading required documents online through IRS.gov. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/DUT](https://www.irs.gov/DUT).

Schedule LEP. You can use Schedule LEP (Form 1040), Request for Change in Language Preference, to state a preference to receive notices, letters, or other written communications from the IRS in an alternative language. You may not immediately receive written communications in the requested language. The IRS's commitment to LEP taxpayers is part of a multi-year timeline that began providing translations in 2023. You will continue to receive communications, including notices and letters, in English until they are translated to your preferred language.

Contacting your local TAC. Keep in mind, many questions can be answered on IRS.gov without visiting a TAC. Go to [IRS.gov/LetUsHelp](https://www.irs.gov/LetUsHelp) for the topics people ask about most. If you still need help, TACs provide tax help when a tax issue can't be handled online or by phone. All TACs now provide service by appointment, so you'll

know in advance that you can get the service you need without long wait times. Before you visit, go to [IRS.gov/TACLocator](https://www.irs.gov/TACLocator) to find the nearest TAC and to check hours, available services, and appointment options. Or, on the IRS2Go app, under the Stay Connected tab, choose the Contact Us option and click on "Local Offices."

Below is a message to you from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization established by Congress.

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) Is Here To Help You

What Is the Taxpayer Advocate Service?

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). TAS helps taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS, makes administrative and legislative recommendations to prevent or correct the problems, and protects taxpayer rights. We

work to ensure that every taxpayer is treated fairly and that you know and understand your rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. We are Your Voice at the IRS.

How Can TAS Help Me?

TAS can help you resolve problems that you haven't been able to resolve with the IRS on your own. Always try to resolve your problem with the IRS first, but if you can't, then come to TAS. Our services are free.

- TAS helps all taxpayers (and their representatives), including individuals, businesses, and exempt organizations. You may be eligible for TAS help if your IRS problem is causing financial difficulty, if you've tried and been unable to resolve your issue with the IRS, or if you believe an IRS system, process, or procedure just isn't working as it should.

- To get help any time with general tax topics, visit www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov. The site can help you with common tax issues and situations, such as what to do if you make a mistake on your return or if you get a notice from the IRS.
- TAS works to resolve large-scale (systemic) problems that affect many taxpayers. You can report systemic issues at www.IRS.gov/SAMS. (Be sure not to include any personal identifiable information.)

How Do I Contact TAS?

TAS has offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. To find your local advocate's number:

- Go to www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov/Contact-Us,
- Check your local directory, or

- Call TAS toll free at 877-777-4778.

What Are My Rights as a Taxpayer?

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes ten basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. Go to www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov/Taxpayer-Rights for more information about the rights, what they mean to you, and how they apply to specific situations you may encounter with the IRS. TAS strives to protect taxpayer rights and ensure the IRS is administering the tax law in a fair and equitable way.

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To help us develop a more useful index, please let us know if you have ideas for index entries. See “Comments and Suggestions” in the “Introduction” for the ways you can reach us.

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