



# IRS Free File Program

**What is the IRS Free File Alliance (FFA)?** The FFA is a public-private partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and electronic tax software companies that provides free online tax preparation and e-filing services to millions of eligible Americans at no cost to taxpayers or the federal government.

**Eligibility.** Taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$58,000 or less are eligible to prepare and file their federal return for free through the Free File Alliance. At least 70 percent of all taxpayers — approximately 97 million people—are eligible for these free services.

**Truth In Advertising. FREE FILE IS FREE.** Cross-marketing, cross-selling and pop-up advertising are prohibited in products offered through Free File. Refund anticipation loans are banned. Only the very highest standards of performance and safety are acceptable when partnering with the government on behalf of taxpayers.

**The Numbers Don't Lie.** Over 30 million tax returns have been filed through Free File since the program launched in 2003.

**New Fillable and Free E-file Forms Option.** When Free File opened for the 2008 tax season it included a new forms-based solution which enables *all* taxpayers – regardless of income – to enter their federal tax data and e-file their federal return directly to the IRS for free.

**Flexibility.** Within weeks of the announcement of last year's economic stimulus payment program, members of the FFA created in-product solutions for their filers as well as free abbreviated tax returns for nontraditional filers, again, at no cost to taxpayers or the federal government. The FFA's swift and efficient response to the economic stimulus payment program demonstrates the private sector's unique flexibility and underscores its proven track record in deploying the best technology and highest quality service to taxpayers.

**Consumer Choice.** Free File enables lower-and-moderate income taxpayers to choose between 19 of the best-known and most trusted commercial tax preparation software products on the market today.

**Ease.** Taxpayers have told IRS they find the program easy and convenient to use and have given IRS Free File a 98% customer satisfaction rating in consumer survey research.

**The IRS Free File Program Saves The Government Money.** According to OMB, GAO and the U.S. Department of Treasury, Free File has saved the IRS over \$91.8 million in paper processing by converting these to e-filed returns.

**What are the 22 Free File States?** These are states which have replicated the IRS Free File program. In these 21 states, taxpayers can prepare and file both their state and federal taxes for free. These 21 states include Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.