

November 26, 2013

To: AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Volunteers

From: Bonnie Speedy, Vice President and National Director, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

Subject: CyberTax 2013-18: Thanksgiving and Diversity Outreach

At Thanksgiving, many of us stop and take time to be thankful. This can include our family, friends, freedom, financial security, etc. I am personally grateful for all these things plus I am grateful to you. You give so much to others through your time and effort in the program and Thanksgiving seems a perfect time to thank you. So, a big thank you from me and all the staff in AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. I hope each and every one of you have a special day Thursday and know that I will be adding you, the volunteers in Tax-Aide, to my list of thanks at our dinner table that evening.

In an October 16th CyberTax, I asked you to consider diversity outreach and how it applies our mission as Tax-Aide volunteers. Helping people is what you do. I shared my story from a site last year in Houston, Texas where we were able to help an immigrant from Mexico. She stepped up to file her taxes, identifying herself in the process and even brought us another taxpayer to help!

Whether newly immigrants or with families in the US for generations, our biggest opportunity to expand our service is helping diverse taxpayers. I hope you see and embrace the opportunity there as well. Many of you do, since you responded to the October 16th message and are opening up a new site where multicultural outreach is the focus. Many sites have already laid the groundwork for next year and we are happy to help with equipment, recruitment, and promotion.

I know we left the process open ended for Diversity Bundle applications but wanted to write today to remind/ask for more of you to join in this effort. I know you are thinking about training and upcoming holidays, but please, if you're on the fence, make the leap and apply for a Diversity Site Bundle. If you have an interest, go for it! We can help even more people.

We did get questions as to whether a current site serving diverse taxpayers can apply. Great question! If you have a site already in existence where you see an opportunity for more diversity outreach, we will absolutely open up the Diversity Site Bundle to you as well. We already have a few of these applications as well! The expansion should be expected to generate an additional 100 returns of 70 percent diverse (non-Caucasian) taxpayers by the end of second year. There are several ways to grow a site, perhaps with more hours, more volunteers, or a combination of both. That is up to you, but we'd like to support your efforts.

You are all great at helping people. Thank you for finding creative ways to help even more multicultural taxpayers.

And, again, thank you for all you do all the time in the program to help so many.