



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Jan. 29, 2026

Subject: *Need Free Tax Help? CPO Brings Back VITA Program with New Ways to Schedule & Two Big Events*

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Community Partnership of the Ozarks Expands Free Tax Help in 2026, Adds Online Scheduling and Second Southside Location for Tax-A-Palooza

Springfield, Mo. — Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) is once again offering free tax preparation services to qualifying individuals and families through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, with expanded scheduling options and two large community events designed to make tax help more accessible than ever.

VITA provides free, IRS-certified tax preparation for individuals and families who generally earn \$67,000 or less, helping ensure community members receive the refunds and credits they are entitled to. **New this year, CPO is encouraging clients to schedule appointments online**, making it easier and more convenient to access services. Online scheduling allows participants to choose times and locations that work best for their schedules and helps CPO serve more households efficiently throughout the tax season. [SCHEDULE ONLINE, HERE](https://cpozarks.org/programs/financial-literacy) by clicking on *Schedule Online* under *Free Tax Services* at cpozarks.org/programs/financial-literacy

“Our goal is to remove barriers and make free, high-quality tax help as easy to access as possible,” said Kelly Paparella, Director of Financial Stability Programs at CPO. “Whether someone prefers to schedule online or attend one of our community events, we want people to know this service is here for them.”

Tax-A-Palooza Community Events

In addition to ongoing appointments, CPO will host two large-scale, walk-in tax preparation events this season:

Tax-A-Palooza

📍 Dream Center, Springfield

📅 February 28, 2026

🕒 9AM – 3PM

Southside Tax-A-Palooza (New Location)

📍 Guaranty Bank at Farmers Park

📅 March 21, 2026

🕒 9AM – 3 PM

The Southside event marks an expansion of CPO’s VITA outreach to better serve residents in that area of the community.

ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS: *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.*

“These events are designed to feel welcoming, accessible, and community-centered,” said Kelly Paparella
“We’re especially excited to add a Southside location this year to reach more neighbors.”

More details about these events can be found on the attached flyers.

About VITA

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationally recognized initiative supported by the IRS and delivered locally by Community Partnership of the Ozarks with the help of trained volunteers.

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