



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
Office of Public Affairs  
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DURHAM, NC 27701

## News Release

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2017

**Share!** #Durham residents encouraged to seek free tax filing assistance to secure their tax benefits: <http://bit.ly/2nwrVTr>  
#TaxHelp #TaxReturns

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## Free Tax Prep Assistance Now Available to Durham Residents

### *Workers May be Eligible for Federal Tax Credits*

DURHAM, N.C. – Durham residents can now receive valuable help from several organizations which provide free tax filing assistance.

IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers can now assist residents to get tax benefits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), which can help working families cover day-to-day expenses such as utilities, rent, and child care. The IRS estimates, however, that nearly one-fifth of eligible people miss out on the EITC because they don't know about it, don't know that they qualify, or don't know where to find free tax filing assistance. Some workers whose income decreased in 2016 may also qualify for the EITC for the first time.

“Local tax assistance sites help families maximize their tax credits and use them to make ends meet or save for the future,” said City of Durham Mayor William V. “Bill” Bell. “Workers who earned from \$50,000 or less in 2016 and were raising children should see if they qualify for the EITC. Single workers not raising children who earned less than about \$15,000 might qualify for a smaller credit.”

Workers must, however, file a federal income tax return to claim the EITC – even if they don't owe any federal income taxes. In addition to free tax help, many of the organizations providing tax assistance can connect clients to no-fee bank accounts, credit repair services, and financial education classes.

For a complete listing of tax assistance sites, which are available at Northgate Mall, Duke University School of Law, State Employees' Credit Union, and North Carolina Central University School of Law, visit the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development [Web page](#) or use this [IRS website tool](#).

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