

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alameda County Social Services Agency Highlights Longstanding Collaboration with United Way Bay Area's Free Tax Help Program

Oakland, CA, August 15, 2025. The Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA), in collaboration with United Way Bay Area's Free Tax Help Program, completed another tax season providing free tax preparation services to eligible residents across the County. This partnership began in 2002, to promote financial stability through equitable access to tax services, which remains true today.

During the 2024-2025 filing season, ACSSA's VITA program operated out of five (5) community sites, where 83 volunteers, including County staff and college and local high students helped prepare over 2,000 tax returns. This represents a 16% growth from the prior year's tax filings and yielded more than \$3 million in federal and state refunds returned to taxpayers.

"These results underscore the importance of community-based solutions in bridging gaps for underserved households," said Charles Balderama Sanchez, coordinator at the Thomas L. Berkley site. "Through VITA, we're delivering more than just tax services—we're investing in people's futures."

Highlights from the 2024-2025 season include:

- Returned over \$1 million through the Child Tax Credit/Additional Child Tax Credit
- Delivered over \$1 million through the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Provided over \$20,000 in Education Tax Credits
- Expanded services to two new sites
- Increased overall refund amounts compared to the 2024 tax season

In addition to providing tax filing assistance, the program fosters community engagement and service. Volunteers experience, establish valuable relationships, and play a role in strengthening the community.

ACSSA remains committed to providing access to free, high-quality tax assistance and encourages interested community members to explore volunteer opportunities ahead of the 2025-2026 tax season.

Media Contact:

The Office of Public Affairs
2000 San Pablo Ave., Suite 445
Oakland, CA 94612
SSACommunications@acgov.org

For more information about the VITA program and how to get involved, please contact (510) 271-9100.

About Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA)

The Alameda County Social Services Agency promotes the economic and social wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities across all stages of life. In partnership with community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, and policymakers, ACSSA serves approximately 31 percent of the county's 1.65 million residents—providing vital support to vulnerable populations including children, older adults, immigrants, refugees, and people experiencing homelessness. ACSSA serves the fourth most diverse county in the United States and the seventh largest in California. For more information, visit www.alamedacountysocialservices.org.

+++