



**Snohomish County**  
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## **Media Advisory – March 19, 2008**

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### **Tax help available for vulnerable populations**

Snohomish County is urging local stakeholders such as charities, churches, employers, local governments and other social-service providers to reach out to residents who may be eligible for the 2008 Economic Stimulus Payment but don't know it.

Many low-income families and senior citizens don't earn enough to typically file federal tax returns, or they receive non-taxable assistance including Social Security and Veterans Affairs' benefits. Yet, they still may be eligible to receive a payment under the approved federal plan.

According to the IRS, individuals who qualify may receive as much as \$600 (\$1,200 if married filing jointly). Snohomish County residents who pay no income tax but have a total of \$3,000 in combined income, Social Security benefits and/or veterans' payments may receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 if married filing jointly).

Finally, individuals eligible for payments may also receive an additional amount of \$300 for each child qualifying for the federal child tax credit.

To receive the federally approved economic stimulus payment from the IRS, however, people in these populations must file a tax return.

The IRS has created a Web page ([www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=179735,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=179735,00.html)) containing a one-page flier, envelope stuffers, informational booklets, logos and more that can be copied or distributed by local employers, churches, charities and other nonprofits.

In addition, through the assistance of the Snohomish County Financial Asset Development Coalition, the United Way of Snohomish County is offering free tax preparation and electronic-filing services to low-income individuals and families.

Through April 15, United Way will host tax-assistance sites at Cedar Valley Community School (19200 56<sup>th</sup> Ave. W, Lynnwood) and North Middle School (2514 Rainier Ave., Everett).

Trained and certified volunteers will be available Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, a site will operate at the Sky Valley Family Resource Center (701 First St., Sultan) until March 26 by appointment only. Call 425-374-5506.

The Financial Asset Development Coalition is a group of local nonprofits and Snohomish County staff, which are working to educate families on the importance of building assets. The coalition is promoting and supporting the free tax sites.

Besides the coalition's efforts through the United Way, there are other local agencies and nonprofits offering free tax assistance to lower-income families and seniors.

ACORN, the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families, will assist families with tax preparation on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. at 2012 Lombard Ave., Everett. For information, call 425-259-5148 or go to [www.wa.acorn.org](http://www.wa.acorn.org).

AARP TaxAide also offers free help to those who are low-income or older than 59. Locations can be found throughout Snohomish County by using the Web site [locator.aarp.org/vmis/sites/tax\\_aide\\_locator.jsp](http://locator.aarp.org/vmis/sites/tax_aide_locator.jsp).

Finally, the IRS can help seniors and low-income residents find free tax help by calling 1-800-829-1040 or by going to [www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html).

In Snohomish County, the IRS office is located at 3020 Rucker Ave., Everett. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, with those hours extended to 5:30 p.m. beginning March 31 through April 11. The office also will be open Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

No appointment is needed and multilingual assistance is provided. Free tax preparation is available for low-income individuals and families. For more information on the Everett IRS office, call 425-304-1656.

Anyone filing tax forms specifically for the economic stimulus payment should write "Stimulus Payment" across the top of their main tax form. An example of what to fill out on a Form 1040A can be found by going to [www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/1040a.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/1040a.pdf).

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