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Ladder Up Overview

Mission

Ladder Up is committed to helping hardworking families and individuals access the financial resources and tools they need to move up the economic ladder. Whether it is helping clients obtain the tax refunds they deserve, secure the financial aid that makes higher education affordable, or gain the knowledge to make sound financial decisions, Ladder Up provides free financial services to help Chicago-area families and individuals improve their quality of life. Since 1994, Ladder Up and its volunteers have provided free financial services to over 297,000 clients, returning \$529 million in economic benefits.

Programs

Ladder Up offers financial relief and opportunity through its two main programs: TAP (Tax Assistance Program) and LIFT (Life-Improving Financial Tools).

TAP

Ladder Up offers free tax preparation and electronic filing to help low- to moderate-income taxpayers secure valuable tax refunds. By engaging over **800 volunteers each year**, Ladder Up provides free tax help to clients at 14 Chicagoland service locations. In 2018, Ladder Up prepared **11,154 returns**, helping clients secure **\$17.4 million** in tax refunds.

Financial Capability

Higher Education Access Initiative
Ladder Up helps students secure financial aid through assistance with the Free Application for Federal
Student Aid (FAFSA). During FY 2017-18, Ladder Up assisted 4,313 students and parents with the FAFSA and financial aid presentations and workshops, helping them secure an estimated \$15.7 million in financial aid awards for higher education. Ladder Up also educated 3,022 students about award letters, college finances, student loans, and personal statements by offering workshops to students.

Financial Literacy Program

Ladder Up helps high school students and adults lay the foundation for financial stability by offering one-on-one financial coaching and leading workshops on topics including credit, banking, and consumer choices. During FY 2017-18, Ladder Up reached over 3,000 individuals through workshops and one-on-one financial coaching. The organization also helped clients access 415 asset building services at tax sites through its Save Up pilot program.

Leveraging Partnerships

Ladder Up's 800+-member volunteer corps is one of the largest volunteer workforces in the Midwest. Partnering companies represent various sectors, including accounting, banking, consulting, law, and financial services. By utilizing the donated service of its volunteers, along with donated office space, legal counsel, and service locations, Ladder Up is able to return \$27 in benefits to clients for every \$1 invested in the organization.

Referring Clients to Additional Ladder Up Services

Free Financial Coaching is Available by Appointment:

- Understanding your credit report
- Building or re-building your credit history
- Creating and maintaining a household budget
- Fixing and preventing identity theft

If a client is interested in financial aid services or financial coaching, please ask them to contact us at SaveUp@goladderup.org or (312) 409-1555.

Ladder Up Tax Clinic

The Tax Clinic provides legal counsel and representation to clients to resolve these issues:

- Audits
- Collections
- Problems related to the ACA
- Family Status Issues (F/S, DX, EIC CTC)
- EITC and Child Tax Credit disputes
- Cancellation of Indebtedness (1099-C, 1099-A, Underreported CP2000 Letter)
- Unreported Income
- Misclassified Worker Disputes (Form SS-8, Form 4852)
- Innocent Spouse Relief
- Other issues arising from dispute with IRS or IDOR

Cases that are **out-of-scope** for the Tax Clinic:

- Property Tax
- Taxes collected by IL Dept of Employment Security
- Disputes between/among taxpayers
- Employment matters
- Non-tax debt collection and refund offsets
- Business entities (however, the tax clinic can assist sole proprietorships and sole shareholders in an S-Corporation or LLC)
- Disputes with paid prepares over rapid refunds

Any Illinois taxpayer who meets our tax preparation income guidelines is eligible for free services from the Tax Clinic.

If a client is interested in the Tax Clinic services, please refer them by entering their information into the Google Form made available at the tax preparation site, so that Tax Clinic staff can follow up with them.

Clients can also contact the Tax Clinic by calling (312) 252-0280, or by e-mailing info@economicprogress.org

Volunteer Locations

Chicago - Saturdays

All of our sites will be open on Saturdays, with volunteer sessions lasting from 8:30am-1:00pm from February 2 until April 15, 2019, unless otherwise noted below. The advertised client service window is 9:00am-12:00pm, except for Chicago Public Libraries which are 10:00am-1:00pm.

LOOP

Harold Washington Library 400 S. State St., 7th Floor 10am-1pm

NORTHWEST

Chicago Public Library – Richard M. Daley (W. Humboldt) 733 N Kedzie Ave 10am-1pm

Wilbur Wright College 4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

WIC Food Center – Diversey 4620 W. Diversey Ave.

WIC Food Center – Armitage 3110 W. Armitage Ave.

WEST

Chicago Public Library – Austin Branch 5615 W. Race 10am-1pm

SOUTHWEST

WIC Food Center – Kedzie 2400 S. Kedzie Ave.

SOUTH

WIC Food Center – Western 5332 S. Western Ave.

Kennedy-King College 747 W. 63rd

Olive-Harvey College 10001 S. Woodlawn Ave.

Suburbs - Saturdays

Suburban sites are open on Saturdays, with most volunteer sessions lasting from 8:30am-1:00pm from February 2 until April 13, 2019. Volunteers signed up for tax sessions in the suburbs drive to their sites, arriving by 8:30am on Saturdays if they are signed up as a tax preparer or quality reviewer.

CICERO

Unity Junior High School

2100 S. Laramie

DOWNERS GROVE

DeVry Education Group

3005 Highland Pkwy. 2/2 – 3/9 Only

Closed after March 9

PLAINFIELD

Plainfield Township Community Center

15014 S. Des Plaines Street

MELROSE PARK

Our Lady of Mount Caramel – Casa Esperanza

1116 N. 22nd Ave.

Chicago - Weekdays

The following sites are open for volunteer session sign-ups during the week.

CHICAGO – NORTHWEST

WIC Food Center – Diversey

4620 W. Diversey Ave. Mon and Wed, 1pm – 7pm

Closed 2/18

Wilbur Wright College

4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

Fri, 10am – 4pm

CHICAGO - LOOP

Harold Washington Library

400 S. State St., 7th Floor *Mon-Thur, 1pm-7pm*

Fri, 10am-1pm

Closed 2/1, 2/12, 2/18, 3/4

CHICAGO - SOUTH

Kennedy-King College

747 W. 63rd St.

Wed, 10am – 4pm

What's New

Below are highlights of some of the notable changes for tax year 2018.

Due Date of Tax Return

The due date for tax year 2018 returns is Monday, April 15, 2019.

Important PATH Act Reminders

Credits affected:

- American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC)
- Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- 1. **Claiming these credits retroactively.** Taxpayers cannot file returns claiming these credits using a SSN issued after the year for which the credit is being claimed.
- 2. **Refund delays.** The IRS will hold the refunds on EITC- and ACTC-related returns until Feb. 15th. This delay gives the IRS additional time to help prevent revenue lost due to identity theft and refund fraud.

The IRS still expects to issue most refunds in fewer than 21 days.

3. American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) specifics. Taxpayers are now required to report the Employer Identification Number of the educational institution to which they make qualified payments. Additionally, higher education institutions are now required to report only qualified tuition and related expenses actually paid on Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement.

Standard Deduction Increases

The standard deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize deductions on Schedule A has increased. The standard deduction amounts for 2018 are:

- \$24,000 Married Filing Jointly or Qualifying Widow(er)
- \$18,000 Head of Household
- \$12,000 Single or Married Filing Separately
- \$1,300 Additional for blind (\$1,600 for unmarried)
- \$1,050 or \$350 plus earned income for individual may be claimed as a dependent, but not more than \$12,000

Personal Exemption Amount

There will be no personal exemptions for 2018, but taxpayers will still have to claim dependents on the tax return in order to receive various credits and to qualify for head of household filing status.

Shared Responsibility Payments

For 2018, the annual payments for individuals that do not have minimum essential coverage or an exemption will be whichever is greater:

• 2.5% of the household income

Or

- \$695 per adult
- \$347.50 per child (under 18 years of age)
- \$2,085 per family limit

Earned Income Credit (EIC)

For 2018, the maximum credit is:

- \$6,431 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,716 with two qualifying children
- \$3,461 with one qualifying child
- \$519 with no qualifying children

To be eligible for a full or partial credit, the taxpayer must have earned income and adjusted gross income of at least \$1 but less than:

		Qualifying (Children Claime	d	
If filing	Zero	One	Two	Three or more	
Single or HOH	\$15,270	\$40,320	\$45,802	\$49,194	
Married Filing Jointly or QW	\$20,950	\$46,010	\$51,492	\$54,884	

Child Tax Credit

The child tax credit has increased to \$2,000, of which \$1,400 is refundable. A Social Security number is now required in order to receive the child tax credit. The refundable credit is now 15% of earned income in excess of \$2,500.

Credit for Other Dependents

There is a new non-refundable credit of up to \$500 for dependents who are not eligible for the child tax credit (need to be U. S. citizen or U. S. national, or a resident of the U. S.).

Qualified Business Income Deduction

Self-employed taxpayers at the income level served by Ladder Up will receive a new deduction generally equal to 20% of self-employment income. This deduction will reduce federal income taxes but not self-employment taxes or Illinois income taxes.

Tax Rates

Tax rates have been lowered for most taxpayers.

Electronic Filing Reminder

Ladder Up is able to e-file current-year tax returns and two years prior for both state and federal returns. Amended returns cannot be e-filed.

Itemized Deductions

- Medical expenses subject to a 7.5% of AGI threshold 2018
- Many itemized deductions have been eliminated or capped.
 - Mortgage interest has been capped up to \$750,000 for new loans, but old loans are grandfathered
 - o Home equity loans can only qualify as mortgage interest if used to build, buy or improve the property, but otherwise are not grandfathered and not deductible.
 - o Moving expenses have been eliminated except for members of the armed services
 - o Casualty and theft losses have been eliminated except for presidentially declared disaster areas.
 - o Job expenses such as licenses, continuing education above 2% of AGI have been eliminated.
 - The state and local tax deduction is capped at a maximum of \$10,000 for 2018.
 - Mortgage insurance premiums are no longer deductible.
 - For 2018 preparing a return with itemized deductions requires advanced certification

"Kiddie Tax"

For 2018 the calculation of the "kiddie tax" has been changed to simplify the calculation. Such returns can be prepared for 2018 provided that taxable scholarships are the reason for the tax. For Ladder Up clients this typically occurs with students who have more than \$2,100 of taxable scholarship income.

Expired Provisions

- Nonbusiness energy property credit (residential energy credit Form 5695).
- Exclusion of cancelled qualified principal residence debt.
- Mortgage premium deduction
- Tuition and fees taken as a deduction (tax credits are still in place)

ITINs Set to Expire

If a taxpayer, spouse, or dependent has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) that has not been used on a tax return for Tax Year 2015, 2016, or 2017, it will expire 12/31/2018. Additionally, ITINs with the following middle digits will also expire at the end of the year (12/31/2018).

• 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, or 82

For example, if a client has the ITIN 9XX-76-XXXX, the ITIN will have to be renewed before the tax return is filed. Ladder Up can assist affected clients in preparing renewal applications. Advise clients to contact us at ITIN@goladderup.org or (312) 409-1555 to schedule an appointment.

Revised Form 1040

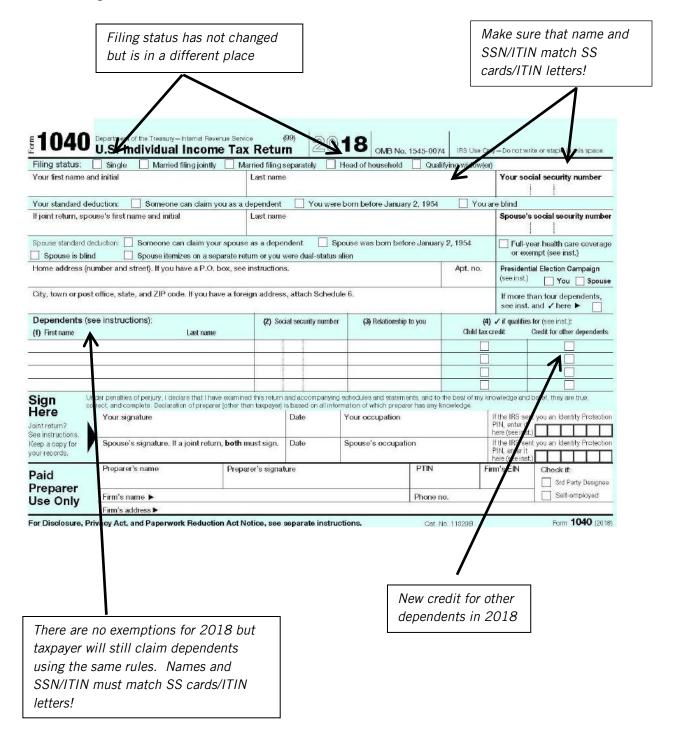
Form 1040 has been redesigned for 2018. The new design uses a "building block" approach. Form 1040, is supplemented with new Schedules 1 through 6. These additional schedules will be used as needed to complete more complex tax returns.

Forms 1040A and 1040-EZ are no longer available for 2018 tax returns.

The following pages show the draft Form 1040 as it existed when this manual was being prepared. Schedules 1-5 are also shown. Schedule 6 is for taxpayers with a foreign address or who want to authorize a paid preparer to discuss their return with the IRS and will therefore not apply to Ladder Up clients.

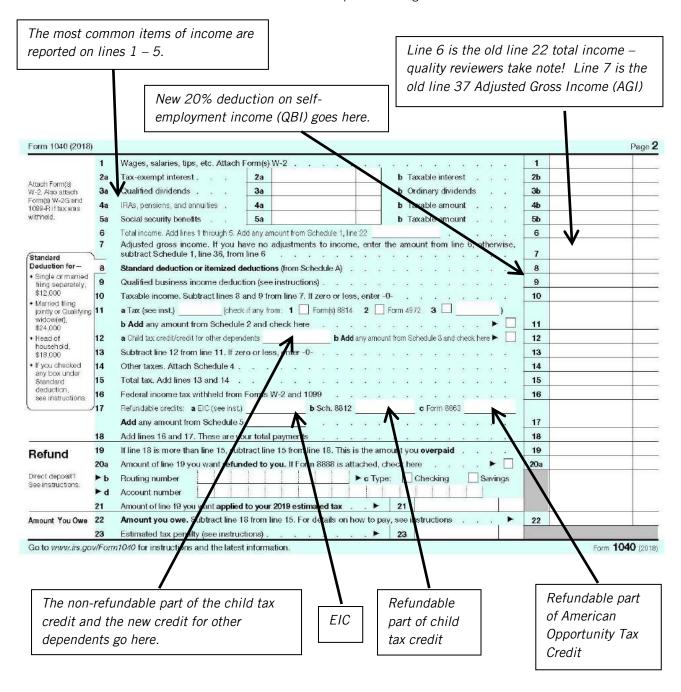
Form 1040, Page 1

All taxpayers will need to complete this part of Form 1040. This is where the filing status is checked, where the name, address and Social Security/ITIN number are recorded, where dependents are claimed and where paper returns are signed.



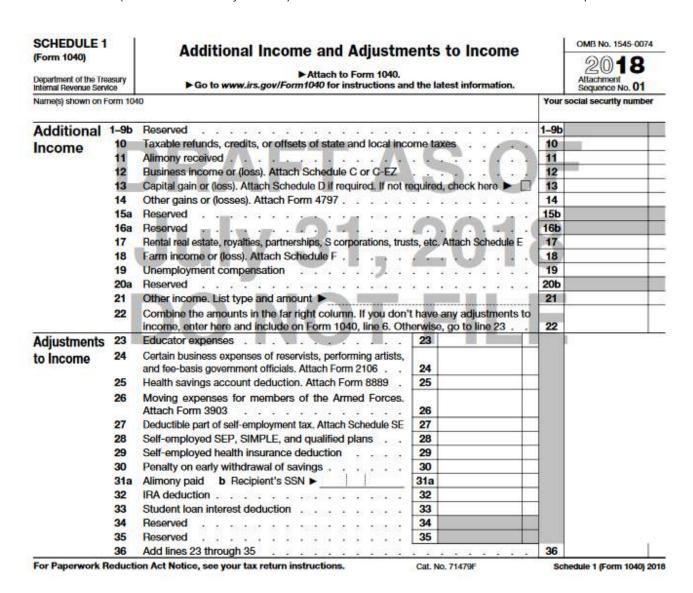
Form 1040, Page 2

This is where the most common items of income are reported along with the most common taxes and credits.



This is where other items of income and all of the adjustments to income will be recorded. Clients with taxable refunds of state taxes, self-employment income, unemployment compensation, and gambling income (other income) are examples of clients who will use this schedule. Note that:

- 1. Lines 10 22 contain the same income items as those same lines on the 2017 Form 1040.
- 2. Lines 15a (IRA distributions), 16a (Pensions and annuities), and 20a (Social Security) are all reserved because those income items are now on page 2 of the Form 1040.
- 3. Similarly, lines 23 33 contain the same adjustments to income as in 2017 with the same line numbers.
- 4. Lines 34 (tuition and fees adjustment) and 35 are reserved because these items have expired for 2018.



For Ladder Up clients, the only time this schedule will be used is when the client received Advance Premium Tax Credits on their health insurance and must now repay a portion of those credits (line 46).

(Form 104 Department Internal Reve		Tax ► Attach to Form 1040. ► Go to www.irs.gov/Form1040 for instructions and the latest information.		OMB No. 1545-0074 2018 Attachment Sequence No. 02
Name(s) sho	own on Form 10	40	Your	social security number
Tax	38-44	Reserved	38-44	
	45	Alternative minimum tax. Attach Form 6251	45	
	46	Excess advance premium tax credit repayment. Attach Form 8962	46	
	47	Add the amounts in the far right column. Enter here and include on Form 1040, line 11	47	
or Paper	rwork Reduct	ion Act Notice, see your tax return instructions. Cat. No. 71478U	Sci	nedule 2 (Form 1040) 20

From 1040, Schedule 3

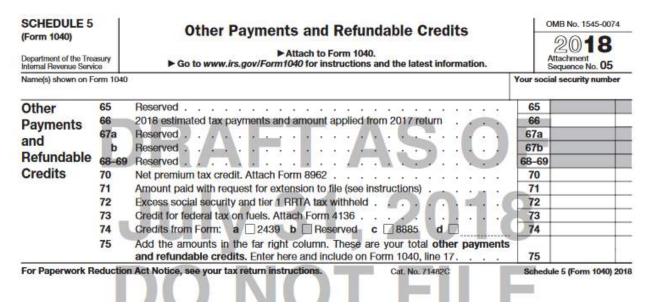
This is where the credit for child and dependent care expenses (line 49), the Lifetime Learning Credit and the non-refundable part of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (line 50) and the Retirement savings contribution credit (line 51) will appear.

SCHEDULE 3 (Form 1040)		Nonrefundable Credits		OMB No. 1545-0074	
(Form 1040) Department of the Trinternal Revenue Ser Name(s) shown on	sury	► Attach to Form 1040. ► Go to www.irs.gov/Form1040 for instructions and the latest information.		Attachment Sequence No. 03	
Name(s) shown on Fo	vm 10	40	our so	cial security number	
Nonrefundable	48	Foreign tax credit. Attach Form 1116 if required	48		
Credits	49	Gredit for child and dependent care expenses. Attach Form 2441	49		
	50	Education credits from Form 8863, line 19	50		
	51	Retirement savings contributions credit. Attach Form 8880	51	81	
	52	Reserved	52		
	53	Residential energy credit. Attach Form 5695	53		
	54	Other credits from Form a 3800 b 8801 c	54		
	55	Add the amounts in the far right column. Enter here and include on Form 1040, line 12	55		

A variety of additional taxes are reported on this schedule including the self-employment tax (line 57), the additional 10% tax on early IRA withdrawals (line 59), and the healthcare individual responsibility payment (line 61).

SCHEDULI	E4	Other Taxes		OMB No. 1545-0074
(Form 1040) Department of the	e Treasury	► Attach to Form 1040.		2018 Attachment
Internal Revenue	Service	► Go to www.irs.gov/Form1040 for instructions and the latest information.		Sequence No. 04
Name(s) shown	on Form 10-	40	Your	social security number
Other	57	Self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE	57	
Taxes	58	Unreported social security and Medicare tax from: Form a 4137 b 8919	58	
Tuxoo	59	Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, and other tax-favored accounts. Attach Form 5329 if required	59	
	60a	Household employment taxes, Attach Schedule H	60a	
	b	Repayment of first-time homebuyer credit from Form 5405. Attach Form 5405 if required	60b	
	61	Health care: individual responsibility (see instructions)	61	
	62	Taxes from: a ☐ Form 8959 b ☐ Form 8960 c ☐ Instructions; enter code(s)	62	
	63	Section 965 net tax liability installment from Form 965-A		10
	64	Add the amounts in the far right column. These are your total other taxes. Enter here and on Form 1040, line 14	64	
For Paperwor	rk Reducti	ion Act Notice, see your tax return instructions. Cat. No. 71481R	Sc	hedule 4 (Form 1040) 201

The most common use of this form for Ladder Up clients will be in situations where the final Premium Tax Credit for health insurance is greater than the Advance Premium Tax Credit received by the client and the client is owed an additional credit (line 70). In the infrequent situation where a client has paid estimated taxes during the year, these will appear on line 66.



State of Illinois Updates

- Illinois increased the income tax rate from 3.75% to 4.95% effective July 1, 2017, so for 2018 tax returns the 4.95% rate will be used for the full year.
- The Earned Income Tax Credit for Illinois has increased from 14% to 18% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.
- The exemption amount for Illinois is \$2,225.

Note: Congress may enact additional legislation that will affect taxpayers after this publication goes to print. Ladder Up will provide further information as needed.

Site Operations

Each tax site has unique qualities, but general operations are the same. Here are some of the standard activities and procedures, which all volunteers should follow.

Intake specialists check Site leaders and intake Based on the complexity of After tax preparation is Site leaders and other specialists arrive early to set basic eligibility of waiting their tax situation, the completed, the client volunteers help to pack clients and distribute client is directed to a receives a different index up the site materials and up site required paperwork specific tax volunteer for card and waits to sit with equipment preparation of their a quality reviewer Site leaders meet with returns once the client's volunteers and clients to go Once a client completes over site procedures their forms, an interview index card number is called The quality reviewer specialist reviews all performs a quality documents review of the returns Volunteers must wear a after the client's index nametag showing their first name & first initial of their last The client's name is put card number is called name on the sign-in sheet and The quality reviewer the client is given an explains the results to index card with a the client number The quality reviewer prepares returns for either e-file or paper file The quality reviewer prints copies of the return for the client's records

At many sites, tax preparers and quality reviewers may be asked to assist with intake and interviewing at the start of the session to help get clients seated with preparers as soon as possible.

The next several pages provide an overview of the intake process, charts to determine who must file a tax return, and drafts of forms each client must fill out and/or sign. More detailed information is available in the intake specialist manual, located on site laptops in PDF format. Hard copies are also included with each site's supplies.

Screening – Intake & Interview

Intake Process

Clients will arrive before the site opens. An intake specialist will work with the site leader to be sure that each client is properly screened before sitting down with a tax preparer.

The following items must be completed before a client can sign in at a tax site. A checklist for the intake process will be provided on pink cardstock.

- 1. **Verify the client's identity by asking for a photo ID**. A photo ID must also be presented by the spouse if the taxpayer is filing a joint return.
- 2. Verify that the client has a Social Security/ITIN card for each person that appears on their return.*

 Volunteers can validate Social Security numbers by using various documents issued from the Social Security Administration (SSA). This includes <u>Social Security cards</u>, <u>Social Security income statements</u>, and <u>other documents issued by SSA</u>. If a client has a document from the SSA, the client's Social Security number may be truncated. If this is the case, perform due diligence to verify that the printout belongs to the client.
- 3. **Determine a client's eligibility** using the questions on the checklist. **There are also general eligibility** posters on display at every site. Clients can refer to this checklist to be sure that they qualify for services.
- 4. If a client meets all of the criteria above, they are given the following forms to complete:
 - Form 13614-C (Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet)
 - TAP Client Consent & Disclosure and TAP ProSeries Client Data Sheet (single document in 2018)

*Note: Sometimes we have issues with Social Security numbers on the W-2 not matching the provided SSN or ITIN. This is legit, as the employer may have given them a fake number when hired and never changed it when the employee received their SSN. In these cases, the return must be paper filed.

Interview Process

Once a client has completed the intake paperwork, they need to be interviewed. The following items must be completed before a client can sign in and receive a number to sit with a tax preparer. An interview checklist is available at the sites on yellow cardstock.

- 1. **Review the client's completed Form 13614-C for each year that they are filing a return**. Prior-year 13614-C forms are located on the site laptops and can be printed.
- 2. Ask to take a look at the client's income and expense documents to ensure that the client is within the VITA scope and TAP eligibility requirements.
- 3. Ensure that the client has completed the TAP Client Data Sheet (and the TAP Multiple-Year Data Sheet for prior years) for each year for which they are filing a return see ProSeries Intake Forms for example.
- 4. **Ensure that the client has signed the TAP Client Consent & Disclosure**. Only one consent form is necessary even if the client has multiple years of returns see page 38 for an example.
- 5. Talk with the client regarding any remaining concerns.
- 6. **Determine the certification level of the client's return as Basic or Advanced.** Mark the top right of the TAP Client Data Sheet by checking off the level of the return. Be sure to send the client to a volunteer who has the appropriate certification level.
- 7. If the client is returning, needs an interpreter, or indicated that they have an HSA, make sure you check the correct boxes on the top left of the TAP ProSeries Client Data Sheet.

Sometimes clients will ask if they should file despite the fact that they had no income in 2018 or only received Social Security benefits. Please see *Volunteer Manual – Who Needs to File?* for more information on filing requirements.

While speaking with clients, an intake specialist may come across a situation in which a client cannot be served. For example, a client's return may be out of scope.

Intake specialists are asked to work with site leaders at the beginning of each session to establish the total number of clients that can be served during that session based on the number of volunteers present. For clients beyond that cutoff number, intake specialists can say that clients are free to wait but that Ladder Up cannot guarantee service on that day due to site capacity.

Intake Checklist

Please make sure to <u>speak with every person waiting to be served</u>, as some people may not be eligible for our services and should not have to wait with the expectation of eventually being served.

Before sending a client home to retrieve missing forms or ID, please complete the <u>entire</u> screening process to identify all missing forms so the client only makes one trip home and to ensure the client is eligible for service in the first place.

	tity eck the client's photo ID (and that of the client's spouse if filing Married Filing Jointly) eck the client's Social Security card or ITIN card/letter
	eck the box in the upper left of the TAP Client Data Sheet to indicate that the client has the cessary photo ID
	rify spouse's and all dependents' Social Security/ITIN information The client must have an original copy of the Social Security or ITIN cards/letters for everyone who will appear on their return. Photocopies and prior-year returns are not accepted as substitutes.
when both spo injury, a valid F	ent's spouse is not present but the couple intends to file a joint return, they will need to return uses are present. In the event that a spouse is physically unable to travel to a site due to illness or lower of Attorney must be presented. See Power of Attorney procedures in the Intake Specialist re information.
	initial eligibility
	nswers "Yes" to any of the following questions, they are not eligible for our services at this time
	e you still waiting for any income or expense documents from last year?
	igue esperando en cualquier ingreso o documentos de gasto del año pasado?
	as your total income from last year more than \$55,000 (or \$30,000 for an individual)?
	xcedió sus ingresos del año pasado los \$55,000 (o \$30,000 para un individuo)?
	d you have income from rental property last year?
	ecibió usted ingresos de alquiler de una propiedad el año pasado?
	d you live outside the state of Illinois for any part of last year?*
	sted vivo fuera del estado de Illinois el año pasado?
	d you receive income from a state other than Illinois last year?* año pasado, ¿tuvo usted ingresos de otro estado fuera de Illinois?
*Note:	ano pasado, Etavo astea migresos de otro estado faera de inmois:
	outside of the state of Illinois last year, we can only prepare their Federal return. If the client has
	nother state but lived in Illinois last year, we can prepare their Federal return. If they have
	consin income we can prepare their state returns in March at Harold Washington Library. (If the
	na returns we can prepare their state returns at Olive Harvey College depending on volunteer
3. Determine	additional information
	you need a translator today?
۸خ	ecesita usted un traductor hoy?

	 If you are filing a joint return, is your spouse here today? Si usted está presentando una declaración conjunta, ¿esta su esposo(a) aquí hoy? Did you or your spouse have a Health Savings Account (HSA) last year? ¿El año pasado, usted (o su cónyuge) tuvo una cuenta de ahorros para gastos médicos (HSA)?
	a client needs a translator, or had an HSA in past year, make sure to check the appropriate box in the upper of the TAP ProClient Data sheet.
4.	If the client <u>does not</u> qualify for return preparation at the site, offer the client a "Know Before You Go" handout that outlines their taxpayer right and how to find a reliable paid preparer. This can be found in the site binder.
5.	If a client <u>does</u> qualify for return preparation, hand them the following forms. Explain that once they are done with the forms, they will need to sit with an Interview Specialist who will go through the screening process and give them a numbered card after the process is complete. Form 13614-C (One needed for each tax year) TAP Client Consent & Disclosure and TAP Client Data Sheet (single packet)

Interview Checklist

1.	Review the client's Form 13614-C.
	*Note: If a taxpayer is completing returns for multiple years, they must complete the specific Form
	13614-C published for each of those specific years.
	Personal Information
	Email, phone, and other contact information
	Dependents
	☐ Income Documents

- Ask to see each income document that the client marked as having
- If a client marks "Unsure" or leaves the item unanswered, be sure to help the client decide, then initial the "yes" or "no" box once a choice has been made

Expense Documents

- Verify that the client has all of the necessary expense documents
- 2. Make sure that the client has filled in the TAP Client Data Sheet completely.
- 3. After reviewing the client's forms, mark the TAP Client Data Sheet as Basic or Advanced (top right-hand corner of the form). Note that on page 2 of Form 13614-C, (B) is for Basic and (A) is for Advanced. If any (A)s are marked, be sure to check the box marked Advanced on the top of the TAP ProSeries Client Data Sheet
- 4. Make sure that the client has signed the TAP Client Consent & Disclosure.
- 5. Once everything is complete, write the client's name on the client sign-in sheet and hand the client the corresponding index card number and ask them to take a seat.
- 6. If Ladder Up cannot serve the client, provide the client with a "Know Before You Go" handout that explains their rights as a taxpayer and how to find a reliable paid preparer. Refer to the Intake Specialist guide for more information on appointment criteria, Ladder Up locations, and additional VITA sites.

VITA Scope of Service

The un-shaded boxes are within the certification level for the tax topic shown. Within each line item, there may be specific elements that are out of scope for the VITA/TCE programs as indicated in the training material.

Form 1040 Line		Information Reporting	Included in Volunteer Tax Law Certification Level B=Basic; A=Advanced;		Included in Specialty Tax Law Certifications M=Military; H=Health Savings Accounts; I=International			
# or Schedule #	Tax Law Topic Description	Source Document	В	A	М	н	1	
Filing Status								
	Filing Status (All statuses)							
Dependents								
	Dependents						T	
Additional Incor	ne and Adjustments to Income							
Line 1	Wages, salaries, tips, etc.	W-2						
Line 1	Unreported tips	W-2						
Line 1	Military compensation	W-2						
Line 1	Foreign pay/income	Varies						
Lines 2a-b	Tax-exempt interest, Taxable interest	1099-INT					\vdash	
Lines 2a-b	Tax-exempt interest, Taxable interest	Schedule K-1					Ī	
Lines 3a-b	Qualified dividends, Ordinary dividends	1099-DIV					T	
Lines 3a-b	Qualified dividends, Ordinary dividends	Schedule K-1						
Line 3	Non-Dividend Distribution	1099-DIV						
Schedule 1	Taxable state and local refunds	1099-G						
Schedule 1	Alimony received							
Schedule 1	Schedule C-EZ (up to \$5,000 expenses) or Schedule C (up to \$25,000 expenses)	1099-MISC, Box 7 & 1099-K						
Schedule 1	Capital gain or loss	1099-B						
Line 4a-b	IRA distributions, taxable amount determined	1099-R, RRB-1099-R						
Line 4a-b	IRA distributions, taxable amount not determined	1099-R, RRB-1099-R						
Line 4a-b	Pensions and annuities, taxable amount determined	1099-R, RRB-1099-R						
Line 4a-b	Pensions and annuities, taxable amount not determined	1099-R, RRB-1099-R 1099-R Codes W, J, T, 6, & U						

VITA Scope of Service, Cont., Schedule 1-3

Form 1040 Line		Information Reporting	Included in Volunteer Tax Law Certification Level B=Basic; A=Advanced;		Included in Specialty Tax Law Certifications M=Military; H=Health Savings Accounts; I=International		
# or Schedule #	Tax Law Topic Description	Source Document	В	A	M	н	1
Additional Incor	ne and Adjustments to Income						
Schedule 1	Rental real estate income	1099-MISC					
Schedule 1	Royalty income (With limitations)	1099-MISC, Box 2 & Schedule K-1					
Schedule 1	Unemployment compensation	1099-G			<u> </u>		
Lines 5a-b	Social security benefits	SSA-1099; RRB-1099-R					
Schedule 1	Other income (Certification level varies)	1099-MISC, Box 3					
Schedule 1	Cancellation of debt income principle residence (if extended)	1099-C, 1099-A					
Schedule 1	Cancellation of debt income (Credit card only)	1099-C					
Schedule 1	Foreign Earned Income Exclusion						
Schedule 1	Distributions from Sections 529 & 530 education programs only if it exceeds qualified expenses, it is out of scope.	1099-Q					
Schedule 1	Educator expenses	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 1	Certain business expenses of reservists/ National Guard personnel	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 1	Health savings account deduction	5498-SA, 1099-SA, W-2 Box 12, Code W					
Schedule 1	Military moving expenses	W-2 Box 12, Code P					
Schedule 1	Deductible part of self-employment tax						
Schedule 1	Self-employed health insurance deduction (Calculation with premium tax credit is out of scope)	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 1	Penalty of early withdrawal of savings	1099-INT					
Schedule 1	Alimony paid	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 1	IRA deduction	5498 or taxpayer records					
Schedule 1	Student loan interest deduction	1098-E					
Schedule 1	Tuition and fees deduction (If extended)	1098-T					1
1040 Page 1	Check if blind/born before January 2, 1954 boxes						1
1040 Page 1	If your spouse itemizes on a separate return						
Line 8	Standard deduction						
Schedule A	Itemized deduction	Taxpayer records					1
Tax		ANGENZALIE I ELEMEN		1			
Schedule 2	Tax for certain children who have unearned income (Kiddle Tax) – Limited, see Note below	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 2	Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) repayment	1095-A					
Nonfundable Cr	edits		Ari .				
Schedule 3	Foreign tax credit (If Form 1116 not required)	1099-INT, 1099-DIV, brokerage statement					
Schedule 3	Foreign tax credit (If Form 1116 is required)	1099-INT, 1099-DIV, brokerage statement					
Schedule 3	Credit for child and dependent care expenses	W2, Provider statement					
Schedule 3	Education credits	1098-T					

Note: Tax for certain children who have unearned income is limited to taxable scholarship and fellowship grants not reported on Form W-2.

Schedule 1, Additional Income and Adjustments to Income
 Schedule 2, Tax
 Schedule 3, Nonrefundable Credits

VITA Scope of Service, Cont., Schedule 3-6

Form 1040 Line # or Schedule #	Tax Law Topic Description	Information Reporting Source Document	Included in Volunteer Tax Law Certification Level B=Basic; A=Advanced;		Included in Specialty Tax Law Certifications M=Military; H=Health Savings Accounts; I=International		
			В	A	М	н	1
Schedule 3	Retirement savings contributions credit	W-2 box 12, taxpayer records					
Schedule 3	Child tax credit and credit for other dependents						
Schedule 3	Nonbusiness energy property credit, Form 5695, Part II Only (if extended)	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 3	Credit for the elderly or the disabled						
Other Taxes							
Schedule 4	Self-employment tax						
Schedule 4	Social security and Medicare tax on tip income not reported to employer (Form 4137 only)	Taxpayer records					
Schedule 4	Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, etc. Part I only (If no exception applies)	1099-R					
Schedule 4	Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, etc. Part I only (If exception applies)	1099-R					
Schedule 4	Repayment of first-time homebuyer credit	Taxpayer records					
1040 Page 1	Full-year health care coverage or coverage exemptions						
Schedule 4	Health care: individual responsibility	1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C					
Other Payments	and Refundable Credits						
Line 16	Federal income tax withheld	W-2, 1099					
Schedule 5	2018 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2017 return	1040-ES					
Line 17a	Earned income credit (EIC)						
Line 17b	Additional child tax credit						
Line 17c	American opportunity credit	1098-T					
Schedule 5	Net premium tax credit	1095-A					
Schedule 5	Amount paid with request for extension to file	4868					
Schedule 5	Excess Social Security and tier 1 tax withheld	SSA-1099; RRB-1099					
Refund			-			10	
Line 19	Amount overpaid	1	T				
Lines 20a-d	Bank account information						
Line 21	Amount you want applied to 2019 estimated tax		1				1
Amount You Ow	•			to de		H	
Line 22	Amount you owe						
Line 23	Estimated tax penalty (Out of scope, see Note below.)						
Foreign Address	s and Third-Party Designee	- Al-		to d			113
Schedule 6	Foreign address or Third-party designee		1	I			1
Signature	Parameter and Telephone in a large state of the state of			to d			
1040 Page 1	Identity Protection PIN	CP01A Notice	1				T

[·] Schedule 3, Nonrefundable Credits

Note: If it appears taxpayers may owe an estimated tax penalty, let them know the IRS will calculate the penalty and send a bill. Leave the estimated tax penalty line blank on Form 1040. Completion of Form 2210 is out of scope.

Schedule 4, Other Taxes
 Schedule 5, Other Payments and Refundable Credits
 Schedule 6, Foreign Address and Third-Party Designee

Out of Scope Situations



The following situations are out of scope for Ladder Up's Tax Assistance Program. If a taxpayer falls into any of these situations, they should be referred to a tax professional for assistance. Note that these lists may not be all-inclusive but serve as a guide.

Filing Status

- Injured vs. Innocent Spouse: A spouse who may be relieved of joint liability (Innocent Spouse Relief) is <u>out-of-scope</u>. For more information on Injured Spouse Relief, which is in scope, see *Volunteer Manual Special Topics: Injured Spouse*.
- Community property tax laws for Married Filing Separately taxpayers
- Taxpayers who are not certain if they are in a common-law marriage (rules are complex and differ from state to state)

Tax Residency

- Unmarried nonresident aliens who do not meet the green card or substantial presence test (Form 1040NR) see Volunteer Manual – Special Topics: Substantial Presence Test
- Taxpayers with F, J, M, or Q visas

- Part-year Illinois residents (we can only prepare Federal returns)
- Dual status aliens (someone who is a resident for tax purposes and a nonresident for part of the year – typically the first year in the US)

Ladder Up can prepare some of these returns by appointment only – please have the client contact our office at (312) 409-1555

Sources of Income

- Taxpayers with income from the following sources reported on Form 1040:
 - Other gains/losses (line 14)
 - Farm income (line 18)
- Taxpayers affected by the Additional Medicare Tax
- Accrual method for reporting income
- Taxpayers who buy or sell bonds between interest payment dates
- Form 1099-INT, box labeled "Specified private activity bond interest" if AMT applies
- Adjustments needed for amounts listed on Form 1099-OID, or if the taxpayer should have received Form 1099-OID but did not

- Form 1099-DIV, boxes labeled Unrecap. Sec. 1250 gain, Section 1202 gain, Cash liquidation distributions, and Noncash liquidation distributions
- State or local income tax refunds received during the current tax year for a year other than the previous tax year
- Alimony/divorce agreements executed before 1985
- Minister tax returns with parsonage/housing allowance
- Income from Puerto Rico
- Combat pay (Code Q on Form W-2)

Out of Scope Situations, Cont.

Business Income

- Hobby income or not-for-profit activity
- Expenses over \$25,000
- Return and allowances
- Cost of goods sold
- Other income
- Expenses for employees or contract labor
- Business use of home
- Casualty losses
- Vehicle expenses reported as actual expenses
- Depreciation
- Rental or lease expenses—vehicle leases of more than 30 days

- Accounting methods other than the cash method
- Net losses
- A "No" response that indicates the taxpayer does not meet any of the tests of material participation, or is uncertain about materially participating in a business
- Taxpayers who receive any credit card or similar payments that included amounts that are not includible in income
- A "Yes" response indicating there is a requirement to file Form(s) 1099
- Income from the manufacture, distribution, or trafficking of controlled substances (such as marijuana)

Capital Gain or Loss Income

- Taxpayers who have sold any assets other than stock, mutual funds, or a personal residence
- Determination of basis issues:
 - Basis of stock acquired other than by purchase or inheritance, such as a gift or employee stock option plan
 - Basis of inherited property determined by method other than the fair market value (FMV) of the property on the date of the decedent's death
 - Basis of property acquired from a decedent who died in 2010
 - Basis of property received as a gift
- Like-kind exchanges and worthless securities
- Form 1099-B, boxes on Bartering: Profit or (loss) realized on closed contracts; Unrealized profit or (loss) on open contracts – prior year; Unrealized profit or (loss) on open contracts – current year; or Aggregate profit (loss) on contracts

- Reduced exclusion computations/determinations in the sale of a home
- Married homeowners who do not meet all requirements to claim the maximum exclusion on sale of home
- Decreases to basis, including:
 - Deductible casualty losses and gains a taxpayer postponed from the sale of a previous home before May 7, 1997
 - Depreciation during the time the home was used for business purposes or as rental property
- Taxpayers with "nonqualified use" issues
- Sale of a home used for business purposes or as rental property
- Form 4797 Other gains or (losses)

Out of Scope Situations, Cont.

Retirement Income

- The taxpayer needs to file Form 8606, Nondeductible IRAs
- Taxpayers who made nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA
- Taxpayers who are subject to additional tax due to excess IRA contributions
- Roth IRA distributions that are taxable or partially taxable, and distributions with Form 1099-R, code J or T
- IRA rollovers that do not meet the tax-free requirement

- Part of a distribution that is a return of after-tax contributions (may require Form 8606)
- Taxpayers who use General Rule to figure the taxable portion of pensions and/or annuities for past years
- Form 1099-R, distribution code A (lumpsum distribution qualifying for special tax treatments)
- Contributions to SIMPLE and SEP IRAs
- Distribution codes 5, 6, 8, 9, A, E, J, K, N, P, R, T, U and W are all out of scope

Other Income

Distributions from Educational Savings Accounts in which the:

- Funds were not used for qualified education expenses, or
- Distribution was more than the amount of the qualified expenses

Deductions

- Disaster related casualty losses
- Investment interest
- Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats and Airplanes
- Taxpayers affected by limits on charitable deductions
- Taxpayers that file Form 8283 to report noncash contributions of more than \$500
- If the taxpayer is donating property that was previously depreciated
- If the taxpayer is donating capital gain property

Credits

- Residential energy-efficient property credit
- Alternative fuel vehicle refueling credit
- Alternative motor vehicle credit
- Child and Dependent Care Expenses:
 Taxpayers who need assistance in determining if employment taxes are owed for household employees
- Foreign Tax Credit: If the foreign tax paid is more than \$300 (\$600 for Married Filing Jointly) or they do not meet the other conditions to claim the credit, taxpayers must file Form 1116. See Pub 17 for more information.

- Plug-In Electric Vehicle Credit for qualified:
 - Plug-in electric drive motor vehicles
 - Plug-in electric vehicles
 - Plug-in electric drive conversion kits
- Education Credit: Taxpayers who must repay (recapture) part or all of an education credit claimed in a prior year
- Miscellaneous Credits: Mortgage interest credit

Out of Scope Situations, Cont.

Adjustments to Income

- Other adjustments to income on Form 1040, such as:
 - Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans
 - Domestic production activities deduction
- Form 8606, Nondeductible IRAs

Other Taxes

- Household employment taxes
- IRA required minimum distributions not withdrawn when required
- Excess contributions to an IRA that are not removed by the due date of the return including extensions
- Parts II through VIII of Form 5329 (only Part I is in scope)
- Distribution from an ABLE account, regardless of limits

Payments

- Taxpayers who choose to claim any of the following credits:
 - Form 4136, Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Fuels
 - Form 2439, Notice to Shareholder of Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains
 - Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses
 - Form 8885, Health Coverage Tax Credit

Refund and Amount of Taxes Owed

• Form 2210, Underpayment of Estimated Tax by Individuals, Estates, and Trust (only allowable to check the box to have the IRS figure interest and penalties)

Who Needs to File?

Some taxpayers <u>must</u> file a tax return, while others who may not be required to file <u>should</u> do so in order to take advantage of certain credits available to them or to claim a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid. <u>Note</u>: filing requirement for Federal returns differ from the requirements for Illinois returns.

Individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States, or residents of Puerto Rico, and who meet certain filing requirements, must file a federal income tax return. There are special rules for dependents, surviving spouses, U.S. citizens and U.S. residents living outside the U.S., residents of Puerto Rico, and individuals with income from U.S. possessions. The requirement to file is based on the combination of the taxpayer's:

- Age
- Gross income
- Filing status

Additionally, the items below should be determined to establish whether someone needs to file:

- Can the person be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return
- Is the person blind
- Are special taxes owed on different types of income
- Is some of the income excludable or exempt

Once the above items are determined, use Charts A – D on the following pages to see if the client must file.

Age (as of January 1, 2019)

Ask the client his age or date of birth. If he has started filling out the Form 13614-C, you can also look at the form to find his date of birth.

Gross Income

An approximation of gross income is enough to see if a taxpayer must file a return. Gross income is *all* the income the taxpayer received during the tax year in the form of money, goods, property, and services that are not exempt from tax. It includes both earned and unearned income.

To approximate gross income, add the amounts from the taxpayer's:

- Forms W-2, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-G, 1098-T, 1099-MISC, 1099-R, W-2G, 1099-B, and 1099-C
- Forms 1099-A (these forms are <u>out-of-scope</u> of the program, but are to be included in the total gross income. The taxpayer should be advised to file with a professional tax preparer)
- Rental income (or loss) (also <u>out-of-scope</u> but to be included in the total gross income)
- Cash, tip, and alimony income

Note: Do not include any Social Security benefits in the above unless (a) the taxpayer is married filing a separate return and lived with a spouse at any time in 2018 or (b) one-half of the Social Security benefits plus other gross income and any tax-exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if married filing jointly).

Filing Status

Taxpayers may not know which filing status to use. For the purpose of determining whether a person must file a return, narrowing the choices down to the *most likely* filing status(es) is adequate in most cases. If the taxpayer doesn't know their filing status, see *Volunteer Manual – FIW Part II: Filing Status* to help them determine their most likely status.

Chart A – For Most People Who Must File

If you may be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer, you must file as a dependent whether you are being claimed or not. See Chart B for .

If your filing status is	AND at the end of 2018 you were*	THEN file a return if your gross income was at least**		
Single	under 65	\$12,000		
	65 or older	\$13,600		
Married filing jointly***	under 65 (both spouses)	\$24,000		
	65 or older (one spouse)	\$25,300		
	65 or older (both spouses)	\$26,600		
Married filing separately (see the Instructions for Form 1040)	any age	\$5		
Head of household	under 65	\$18,000		
(see the Instructions for Form 1040)	65 or older	\$19,600		
Qualifying widow(er) (see the	under 65	\$24,000		
Instructions for Form 1040)	65 or older	\$25,300		

^{*} If you were born on January 1, 1954 you are considered to be age 65 at the end of 2018. (If your spouse died in 2018 or if you are preparing a return for someone who died in 2018, see Pub. 501)

Individuals who do not have a filing requirement based on this chart should also check Chart C, Other Situations When You Must File, and Chart D, Who Should File. Individuals with earned income but who do not have a filing requirement may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit.

^{**} Gross Income means all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that isn't exempt from tax, including any income from sources outside the United States or from the sale of your main home (even if you can exclude part or all of it).

[·] Do not include any social security benefits unless

⁽a) you are married filing a separate return and you lived with your spouse at any time in 2018 or

⁽b) one-half of your social security benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if married filing jointly).

If (a) or (b) applies, see the Form 1040 Instructions to figure the taxable part of social security benefits you must include in gross income.

[·] Gross income includes gains, but not losses, reported on Form 8949 or Schedule D.

[•] Gross income from a business means, for example, the amount on Schedule C, line 7, or Schedule F, line 9. But, in figuring gross income, don't reduce your income by any losses, including any loss on Schedule C, line 7, or Schedule F, line 9.

^{***} If you didn't live with your spouse at the end of 2018 (or on the date your spouse died) and your gross income was at least \$5, you must file a return regardless of your age.

Chart B - For Children and Other Dependents

If your parent (or any other taxpayer) may claim you as a dependent, use this chart to see if you must file a return.

In this chart, **unearned income** includes taxable interest, ordinary dividends, and capital gain distributions. It also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust. **Earned income** includes salaries, wages, tips, professional fees, and taxable scholarship and fellowship grants. **Gross income** is the total of your unearned and earned income.

Single Dependents	
Either 65 or over or blind	You must file a return if any of the following apply. 1. Your unearned income was over \$2,650 (\$4,250 if 65 or older and blind). 2. Your earned income was over \$13,600 (\$15,200 if 65 or older and blind). 3. Your gross income was more than the larger of — a. \$2,650 (\$4,250 if 65 or older and blind) or b. Your earned income (up to \$11,650) plus \$1,950 (\$3,550 if 65 or older and blind).
Under 65 and not blind	You must file a return if any of the following apply. 1. Your unearned income was over \$1,050. 2. Your earned income was over \$12,000. 3. Your gross income was more than the larger of — a. \$1,050, or b. Your earned income (up to \$11,650) plus \$350.
Married Dependents	
Either age 65 or older or blind	You must file a return if any of the following apply. 1. Your unearned income was over \$2,350 (\$3,650 if 65 or older and blind). 2. Your earned income was over \$13,300 (\$14,600 if 65 or older and blind). 3. Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions. 4. Your gross income was more than the larger of — a. \$2,350 (\$3,650 if 65 or older and blind), or b. Your earned income (up to \$11,650) plus \$1,650 (\$2,950 if 65 or older and blind).
Under age 65 and not blind	You must file a return if any of the following apply. 1. Your unearned income was over \$1,050. 2. Your earned income was over \$12,000. 3. Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions. 4. Your gross income was more than the larger of — a. \$1,050, or b. Your earned income (up to \$11,650) plus \$350.

Tax for Certain Children who have Unearned Income - Form 8615 (Kiddie Tax)

Children under age 18 and certain older children who are required to file a tax return and have unearned income over \$2,100 must file Form 8615. For this purpose, "unearned income" includes all taxable income other than earned income, such as taxable interest, ordinary dividends, capital gains, rents, royalties, etc. It also includes taxable social security benefits, pension and annuity income, taxable scholarship and fellowship grants not reported on Form W-2, unemployment compensation, alimony, and income received as the beneficiary of a trust. Form 8615 is in scope, with limitations. See Tab H, Other Taxes, Payments and ACA.

Chart C - Other Situations When You Must File

You must file a return if any of the conditions below apply for 2018.

- 1. You owe any special taxes, including any of the following.
 - Alternative minimum tax.
 - b. Additional tax on a qualified plan, including an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), or other tax-favored account. But if you are filing a return only because you owe this tax, you can file Form 5329 by itself.
 - Household employment taxes. But if you are filing a return only because you owe this tax, you can file Schedule H by itself.
 - d. Social security and Medicare tax on tips you did not report to your employer or on wages you
 received from an employer who did not withhold these taxes.
 - e. Recapture of first-time homebuyer credit. See Instructions for Form 1040, Schedule 4.
 - f. Write-in taxes, including uncollected social security and Medicare or RRTA tax on tips you reported to your employer or on group-term life insurance and additional taxes on health savings accounts. See the Instructions for Form 1040.
 - g. Recapture taxes. See the Instructions for Form 1040
- 2. You (or your spouse, if filing jointly) received HSA, Archer MSA or Medicare Advantage MSA distributions.
- 3. You had net earnings from self-employment of at least \$400.
- You had wages of \$108.28 or more from a church or qualified church-controlled organization that is exempt from employer social security and Medicare taxes.
- Advance payments of the premium tax credit were made for you, your spouse, or a dependent who enrolled in coverage through the Marketplace. You or whoever enrolled you should have received Form(s) 1095-A showing the amount of the advance payments.
- Advance payments of the health coverage tax credit were made for you, your spouse, or a dependent. You or whoever enrolled you should have received Form(s) 1099-H showing the amount of the advance payments.
- 7. You have a net tax liability that you deferred by making an election under section 965(i).

Chart D - Who Should File

Even if a taxpayer is not required to file a federal income tax return, they should file if any of the following situations below apply.

- 1. You had income tax withheld from your pay, pension, social security or other income.
- You made estimated tax payments for the year or had any of your overpayment for last year's estimated tax applied to this year's taxes.
- 3. You qualify for the earned income credit. See Publication 596, Earned Income Credit (EIC), for more information.
- 4. You qualify for the additional child tax credit. See Form 1040 Instructions for more information on this credit.
- 5. You qualify for the refundable credit for prior year minimum tax. See Form 8801, Credit for Prior Year Minimum Tax Individuals, Estates, and Trusts. (out of scope)
- 6. You qualify for a refundable American Opportunity Credit.
- 7. You receive a 1099-B and the gross proceeds plus other income exceeds the filing limits in Chart A.
- 8. You receive Form 1099-S, Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions.
- 9. You qualify for the federal tax on fuels (out of scope).
- 10. You are required to file a state return.
- 11. You qualify for the Premium Tax Credit.

Illinois filing requirements:

- If you are required to file a Federal return; or
- If Illinois base income (Federal AGI Social Security & Retirement Income) exceeds the Illinois exemption allowance (\$2,225)

Supplemental Intake Forms

ProSeries Client Data Sheet

FOR TAX ASSISTANCE PROSERIES SITES ONL	Y		Completed by Intake Specialist
ProSeries Client Data Sheet	☐ Basic Return ☐ Advanced Return	~ }	mpl Int
SITE: DATE:			So
☐ Client's Photo ID Verified ☐ Interpreter Needed	Intoles Engainlist Nome.	_	
☐ Returning (Transfer) Client ☐ Client has/had HSA	Intake Specialist Name:		
FOR TAX P	REPARER ONLY	רו	er by
ProSeries File Name:	Computer #:	1	ed pare
(If an amendment, type "AMEND" after the last four numbers of the client's SSN in the file name, e.g. SMITIZ34AMEND]	Tax Preparer Name:		plet Pre
	sensi narrie, iasc initiali	IJ	Completed by Tax Preparer
FOR QUALITY R	EVIEW CHECKER ONLY	ĺ	0 1
Packet Order (front to back:)	Tax Year:	רו	
Completed TAP Client Data Sheet (this sheet)	ProSeries File Name:		
Completed Consent & Disclosure (back of this sheet)	Completed IRS Form 13614-C for specific tax year	ш	l by
☐ Completed Supplemental Intake Form ③ ④	Federal Illinois		Completed by Quality Reviewer
☐ IRS Form 13614-C (for each year)	☐ E-file ☐ Form 8888? ☐ E-file	l ⊦	rple 2ua evi∈
■ Signed Federal E-File Consent (Form 8879) or ■ N/A	☐ Paper File ☐ Savings Bond? ☐ Paper File		то О У
☐ Signed IL State E-File Consent (Form IL-8453) or ☐ N/A	Refund of \$ Refund of \$		O
Computer #:	or (Line 19 or 76a) or (Line 37)		
Checker Name:	Owes \$ (Line 22 or 78)		
(First name, Last Initia)	IONAL TAX YEARS		
		1	
Tax Year: ProSeries File Name:	Tax Year: ProSeries File Name:		
Completed IRS Form 13614-C for specific tax year	Completed IRS Form 13614-C for specific tax year		
Federal Illinois	Federal Illinois		
□E-file □ Form 8888? □ E-file	□ E-file □ Form 8888? □ E-file		
□ Paper File □ Savings Bond? □ Paper File	☐ Paper File ☐ Savings Bond? ☐ Paper File		
Refund of \$ Refund of \$	Refund of \$ Refund of \$		
or (Line 19 or 76a) or (Line 37)	or (Line 37) or (Line 37)		
Owes \$ (Line 22 or 78)	Owes \$ (Line 22 or 78)		
Tax Year:	Tax Year:	1	
ProSeries File Name:	ProSeries File Name:		
Completed IRS Form 13614-C for specific tax year	Completed IRS Form 13614-C for specific tax year		
Federal Illinois	Federal Illinois		
□E-file □ Form 8888? □ E-file	□ E-file □ Form 8888? □ E-file		
□ Paper File □ Savings Bond? □ Paper File	☐ Paper File ☐ Savings Bond? ☐ Paper File		
Refund of \$ Refund of \$	Refund of \$ Refund of \$		
or (Line 19 or 76a) or (Line 37) Owes \$	or (Line 19 or 76a) or (Line 37) Owes \$		
Owes \$	Owes \$(Line 22 or 78) Owes \$		

Form 13614-C: Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet

Form 13614-C (October 2018)		Int				sury - Internal Qualit			Sheet			OMB N 1545	lumber 1964
You will need: • Tax Information such as • Social security cards or • Picture ID (such as valid	ITIN letters fo driver's licen	099, 1098 rall perse se) for yo	3, 1095. ons on yo ou and yo	our tax ur spoi	return. use.	Please You ar comple If you le	comple e respon ete and have qu	ete page nsible fo accurate lestions,	s 1-3 of this for or the informa information. please ask th	tion on yo ne IRS-cer	tified volu		
	Volunteers								iighest ethica tax@irs.gov	l standard	ds.		
Part I – Your Personal Inform	nation (If you ar												
Your first name	80.50	M,I.	Last n	ame					Daytime telepi	hone numb	ber Are y	ou a U.S. cit	izen?] No
2. Your spouse's first name		M.L.	Last n	ame					Daytime telepi	hone numb	ber Is you □ Ye	ur spouse a	J.S. citizen?] No
3. Mailing address			1			Apt# C	ity				State		IP code
4. Your Date of Birth	5. Your job tit	le				, were you nd perman		ahlad	☐ Yes ☐ N		ull-time stu	dent Y	
7. Your spouse's Date of Birth	8. Your spous	se's job tit	le	9.	Last year	, was your	spouse	:		a. Fu	ull-time stu	dent 🗌 Y	es 🗌 No
10. Can anyone claim you or y	nur emuliee ae a	denend	nt2	□ Yes		nd perman		abled	☐ Yes ☐ N	o c.Le	gally blind	_ Y	es 🗌 No
11. Have you, your spouse, or				0.004	-			n Identity	Protection PIN	12		ПУ	es 🗆 No
Part II - Marital Status and			ion				- 450 50 541		Judation I II				
List the names below of: everyone who lived with you	☐ Wid	ally Separ lowed ner than vo	Y	ear of s	eparate m pouse's d	aintenance eath	e agreen		additional spac	ce is neede	ed check h	ere 🗌 and I	st on page 0
· anyone you supported but		you last							To be co	mpleted b	by a Certif	ied Volunte	er Preparer
Name (first, last) Do not enter your name or spouse's name below	(m/wod/yy) to e	Relationship o you (for example: con, daughter, parent, none, etc)	months lived in your home last year	Citizen (yes/no)	or Mexico last year (yes/no)		Full-time Student last year (yes/no)	Permaner Disabled (yes/no)		50% of his/ her own support?		Did the taxpayer(s) provide more than 50% of support for this person? (yes/no/N/A)	half the cost maintaining a home for this person?
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)		(yes/no)			(yes/no)
Catalon Number 521217			J	_	Water in	's nov					1	om 136121.1	. /Per/ 10 20
Catalog Number 52124					www.ir	rs.gov			ompleted er tax pre		certifi		(Re
tact information in tl	ne event									-		=	
Ladder Up needs to								lient u	icing the i	intarvia	און מוופי	tions in	
Lauder Op needs to	reach							lient u ray.	ising the i	intervie	ew ques	tions in	

Form 13614-C, Page 2 Talk with your client to help change all "Unsure" and blank answers to "Yes" or "No" Page 2 Check app priate for each question in each section Yes No Unsure Part III - Income - Last Year, Did You (or Your Spouse) Receive 1. (B) Wages or Salary? (Form W-2) If yes, how many jobs did you have last year? 2. (A) Tip Income? 3. (B) Scholarships? (Forms W-2, 1098-T) 4. (B) Interest/Dividends from: checking/savings accounts, bonds, CDs, brokerage? (Forms 1099-INT, 1099-DIV) 5. (B) Refund of state/local income taxes? (Form 1099-G) 6. (B) Alimony income or separate maintenance payments? 7. (A) Self-Employment income? (Form 1099-MISC, cash) 8. (A) Cash/check payments for any work performed not reported on Forms W-2 or 1099? 9. (A) Income (or loss) from the sale of Stocks, Bonds or Real Estate? (including your home) (Forms 1099-S, 1099-B) 10. (B) Disability income? (such as payments from insurance, or workers compensation) (Forms 1099-R, W-2) 11. (A) Retirement income or payments from Pensions. Annuities, and or IRA? (Form 1099-R) 12. (B) Unemployment Compensation? (Form 1099G) 13. (B) Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefits? (Forms SSA-1099, RRB-1099) 14. (M) Income (or loss) from Rental Property? 15. (B) Other income? (gambling, lottery, prizes, awards, jury duty, Sch K-1, royalties, foreign income, etc.) Specify No Yes Part IV - Expenses - Last Year, Did You (or Your Spouse) Pay (B) Alimony or separate maintenance payments? If yes, do you have the recipient's SSN? ☐ IRA (A) Roth IRA (B) 2. Contributions to a retirement account? ☐ 401K (B) □ Other 3. (B) College or post secondary educational expenses for yourself, spouse or dependents? (Form 1098-T) ☐ Medical & Dental (including insurance premiums) ☐ Charitable Contributions ☐ Taxes (State, Real Estate, Personal Property, Sales) 5. (B) Child or dependent care expenses such as daycare? 6. (B) For supplies used as an eligible educator such as a teacher, teacher's aide, counselor, etc.? \Box 7. (A) Expenses related to self-employment income or any other income you received? 8. (B) Student loan interest? (Form 1098-E) Yes No Unsure Part V - Life Events - Last Year, Did You (or Your Spouse) 1. (HSA) Have a Health Savings Account? (Forms 5498-SA, 1099-SA, W-2 with code W in box 12) 2. (A) Have credit card or mortgage debt cancelled/forgiven by a lender or have a home foreclosure? (Forms 1099-C, 1099-A) 3. (A) Adopt a child? 4. (B) Have Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit or American Opportunity Credit disallowed in a prior year? If yes, for which tax year? 5. (A) Purchase and install energy-efficient home items? (such as windows, furnace, insulation, etc.) 6. (B) Live in an area that was declared a Federal disaster area? If yes, where? 7. (A) Receive the First Time Homebuyers Credit in 2008? 8. (B) Make estimated tax payments or apply last year's refund to this year's tax? If so how much? 9. (A) File a federal return last year containing a "capital loss carryover" on Form 1040 Schedule D? 10. Receive a letter from the IRS? Form 13614-C (Rev. 10-2018) www.irs.gov

Certification level is indicated in parentheses: Basic (B) and Advanced (A).

*Military Income (M) is not prepared at TAP sites.

See the site leader if the client has an HSA, this requires special certification.

Form 13614-C, page 3

	x for each question in ea	The state of the s				
			id you, your spouse, or depe	ndent(s)		
	 (B) Have health care cov 	erage?				
	2. (B) Receive one or more	of these forms? (Che	theck the box) 🗌 Form 1095	-B		
	3. (A) Have coverage throu	gh the Marketplace ((Exchange)? [Provide Form 1	095-A]		
	3a. (A) If ves. were adva	ince credit payments	ts made to help you pay your h	ealth care premiums?		
		아이지 아이들이 아이를 하는 것이 없는 것이 없다.	rm 1095-A being claimed on th	Main Control of the William of the Arthur		
	4 (R) Have an exemption of		-			
					A1-01	a version and advers
) indicating Minimum Essential Covera		
Name	MEC All Year	No MEC	Months with MEC	Months with Exemption	Exempt All Year	Notes
expayer	^	JF	MAMJJASOND	J F M A M J J A S O N D		
oouse		JF	MAMJJASOND	J F M A M J J A S O N D		
ependent		JF	MAMJJASOND	J F M A M J J A S O N D		
ependent		JF	MAMJJASOND	JFMAMJJASOND		
ependent				JFMAMJJASOND		
rt VII - Additional I	formation and Ousetien		reparation of Your Peturn	J. MAN WOOND		
				10 0		
			used for contacts from the Inte	ernal Revenue Service)		
	Campaign Fund (If you ch		HTTP://www.com.com/com/com/com/com/com/com/com/com/com/			
Check here if you, o	your spouse if filing jointly	, want \$3 to go to this	his fund You	☐ Spouse		
If you are due a ref.	nd, would you like: a	Direct deposit	b. To purchase U	J.S. Savings Bonds c. To split yo	our refund between d	fferent accoun
N .		☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No	
If you have a balance	e due, would you like to ma	ake a payment direct	ctly from your bank account?	☐ Yes ☐ No		
any free tax prepar	ation sites operate by rec	eiving grant money	y. The data from the following	ig questions may be used by th	is site to apply for t	hese grants.
our answers will be	used only for statistical p	purposes.				
Would you say you	can carry on a conversation	in English, both und	nderstanding & speaking?	Very well Well Not well	☐ Not at all ☐ Pre	fer not to answe
Would you say you	can read a newspaper or bo	ook in English?	☐ Very well ☐	Well ☐ Not well ☐ Not	at all Pre	fer not to answe
322 1/54 23 6	per of your household have	- 100 HIV-1000 1		No ☐ Prefer not to answe		
	use a Veteran from the U.S			No Prefer not to answe		
	ise a veteral from the o.c	Aimed Folloss	_ ies	TVO Freier not to answe		
iditional comments						
		Privacy A	Act and Paperwork Reduction	Act Notice		
	ires that when we ask for informs	ition we tell you our legal r	il right to ask for the information, why w	ve are asking for it, and how it will be used	i. We must also tell you wh	at could happen if
e Privacy Act of 1974 req		ired to obtain a henefit or		r information is 5 U.S.C. 301. We are aski		
not receive it, and wheth	er your response is voluntary, requ			omestion you provide may be furnished to a		
not receive it, and wheth u relative to your interest	er your response is voluntary, requ and/or participation in the IRS volu	inteer income tax preparat				vities and staffing a
not receive it, and whether a relative to your interest funteer return preparation	er your response is voluntary, requ and/or participation in the IRS volu sites or outreach activities. The in	inteer income tax preparat iformation may also be use	used to establish effective controls, ser	nd correspondence and recognize voluntee	ers. Your response is volu	vities and staffing a stary. However, if y
not receive it, and whether a relative to your interest funteer return preparation not provide the requester formation requests. The O	er your response is voluntary, requindror participation in the IRS volusites or outreach activities. The in I information, the IRS may not be MB Control Number for this study.	inteer income tax preparat formation may also be use able to use your assistance is 1545-1964. Also, if you	used to establish effective controls, ser noe in these programs. The Paperwor ou have any comments regarding the t	nd correspondence and recognize voluntee Reduction Act requires that the IRS displ me estimates associated with this study o	ers. Your response is volu ay an OMB control numbe	vities and staffing a stary. However, if y r on all public
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Form 13614-C, page 4

Note: Ladder Up clients do **not** need to complete page 4 of the Form 13614-C, as our sites do not use TaxSlayer software.

Form **15080 (EN-SP)**(June 2018)

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Consent to Disclose Tax Return Information to VITA/TCE Tax Preparation Sites

Federal Disclosure:

Federal law requires this consent form be provided to you. Unless authorized by law, we cannot disclose your tax return information to third parties for purposes other than the preparation and filing of your tax return without your consent. If you consent to the disclosure of your tax return information, Federal law may not protect your tax return information from further use or distribution.

You are not required to complete this form to engage our tax return preparation services. If we obtain your signature on this form by conditioning our tax return preparation services on your consent, your consent will not be valid. If you agree to the disclosure of your tax return information, your consent is valid for the amount of time that you specify. If you do not specify the duration of your consent, your consent is valid for one year from the date of signature.

Terms:

Global Carry Forward of data allows TaxSlayer LLC, the provider of the VITA/TCE tax software, to make your tax return information available to ANY volunteer site participating in the IRS's VITA/TCE program that you select to prepare a tax return in the next filing season. This means you will be able to visit any volunteer site using TaxSlayer next year and have your tax return populate with your current year data, regardless of where you filed your tax return this year. This consent is valid through November 14, 2020.

The tax return information that will be disclosed includes, but is not limited to, demographic, financial and other personally identifiable information, about you, your tax return and your sources of income, which was input into the tax preparation software for the purpose of preparing your tax return. This information includes your name, address, date of birth, phone number, SSN, filing status, occupation, employer's name and address, and the amounts and sources of income, deductions and credits that were claimed on, or contained within, your tax return. The tax return information that will be disclosed also includes the name, SSN, date of birth, and relationship of any dependents that were claimed on your tax return.

You do not need to provide consent for the VITA/TCE partner preparing your tax return this year. Global Carry Forward will assist you only if you visit a different VITA or TCE partner next year.

Limitation on the Duration of Consent: I/we, the taxpayer, do not wish to limit the duration of the consent of the disclosure of tax return information to a date earlier than presented above (November 14, 2020). If I/we wish to limit the duration of the consent of the disclosure to an earlier date, I/we will deny consent.

Limitation on the Scope of Disclosure: I/we, the taxpayer, do not wish to limit the scope of the disclosure of tax return information further than presented above. If I/we wish to limit the scope of the disclosure of tax return information further than presented above, I/we will deny consent.

Consent:

I/we, the taxpayer, have read the above information.

I/we hereby consent to the disclosure of tax return information described in the Global Carry Forward terms above and allow the tax return preparer to enter a PIN in the tax preparation software on my behalf to verify that I/we consent to the terms of this disclosure.

Primary taxpayer signature	Date
Secondary taxpayer signature	Date
If you believe your tax return information has been disclose	ed or used improperly in a manner unauthorized by law or

If you believe your tax return information has been disclosed or used improperly in a manner unauthorized by law or without your permission, you may contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) by telephone at 1-800-366-4484, or by e-mail at complaints@tigta.treas.gov.

Catalog Number 71414A www.irs.gov Form **15080 (EN-SP)** (6-2018)

TAP Client Consent and Disclosure

Tax Assistance Program Client Consent and Disclosure
I,, as a client of the Tax Assistance Program, an Illinois nonprofit organization whose tax preparation services are offered for free by volunteers, release the Tax Assistance Program, and its affiliates, director officers, trustees, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all liability associated with the services, information, advice I receive from the Tax Assistance Program. I understand that my tax return is being prepared for free by voluntee and not paid by tax professionals.
I have provided correct and truthful information to the Tax Assistance Program for the preparation of my tax returns, ar agree that I am responsible for any and all Internal Revenue Service and Illinois Department of Revenue fines and/or penaltic that result from fraudulent or misleading information that I have provided.
The information I have provided to the Tax Assistance Program is correct and complete, including: Let tifico ion Tumers—so ia Scurity I Where & TIAS: have provided the correct sparage of the correct sparag
Source, of micoline: I have no join correct and completing formation too it my income and my pouse's income have folly listed sed all sources of income and the accuracy ceived.
Dependents: I acknowledge that any and all dependents claimed on my income tax return are my dependents. Als I know hat any are all less rid into claimed by the cannot and viril of the claimed by the cannot are my dependents. Als Binding Arbitration Clause
In the case of any and all disputes regarding the Tax Assistance Program and its services, I will contact the Tax Assistance Program in writing at the following address to explain the nature of the dispute:
Tax Assistance Program 350 N Orleans, Suite C2-100 Chicago, IL 60654
If the dispute cannot be resolved satisfactorily within 90 days, I agree to enter into final and binding arbitration through the American Arbitration Association with a panel of 3 arbitrators to review and provide a final and binding ruling on the cas Each party agrees to pay for its own arbitration costs. I surrender any and all of my legal rights to pursue any and all claims state and/or federal court regarding any and all services provided by the Tax Assistance Program and its volunteers, agent employees, officers, and/or directors.
Privacy Statement
The Tax Assistance Program gathers non-public personal information from its clients and on its forms necessary for its free services. This information may be provided to a volunteer of the Tax Assistance Program who is assisting you. The Tax Assistance Program will not share, sell, or rent any non-public personal information collected from its clients to any other this party, except as may be permitted or required by law.
Client Signature Date

Client Name (Please Print)

Cell Phone or Home Phone Number

Tax Preparation Process Overview

Volunteer tax preparers complete federal and Illinois returns for eligible clients using ProSeries tax software. Prepared returns will be reviewed and finalized by volunteers in the quality reviewer ("checker") role.

Verify Completion of Client Intake Forms

Check to make sure the client has completed <u>all 3</u> intake and consent forms:

- 1. Form 13614-C IRS intake sheet white with a dark blue heading (English) or yellow (Spanish)
- 2. Supplemental Intake Sheet
 - If the site name and date aren't filled out at the top, do that now
 - If the client's photo ID hasn't been verified, do that now and check the box in the upper left
 - If the client is Married Filing Jointly be sure to check the spouse photo ID as well
 - Be sure that the certification level marked at the top of the data sheet matches your certification level. Refer to the VITA Scope of Service chart starting on page 21.
- 3. Signed TAP client consent and disclosure form center part of foldout

Samples of these forms can be found under *Volunteer Manual – Site Operations: Supplemental Intake Forms.*

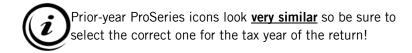
Without all the required supporting documents (e.g., Form W-2, proof of identity, Form 1099, child care information), you cannot accurately complete a taxpayer's return. The intake specialists at the site should be checking for sufficient documentation, but double check all forms before starting a return.

ProSeries Overview

Open ProSeries to Begin a New Client File

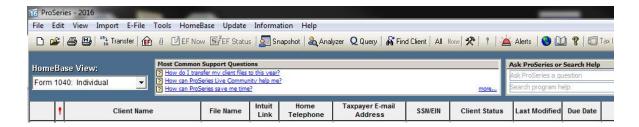
To start ProSeries, double-click the icon for ProSeries 2018.





HomeBase

When you start the ProSeries program, you will first see HomeBase. ProSeries summarizes information about your client files in HomeBase.



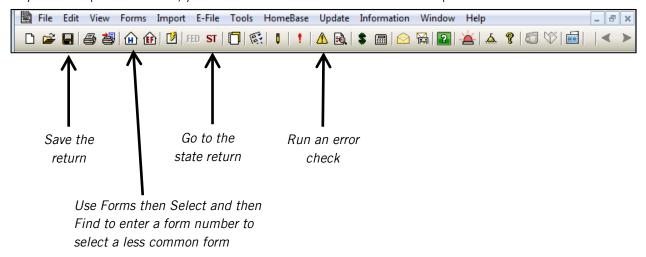
From HomeBase, you can start a new client file or open a previously-saved client file, among other tasks.



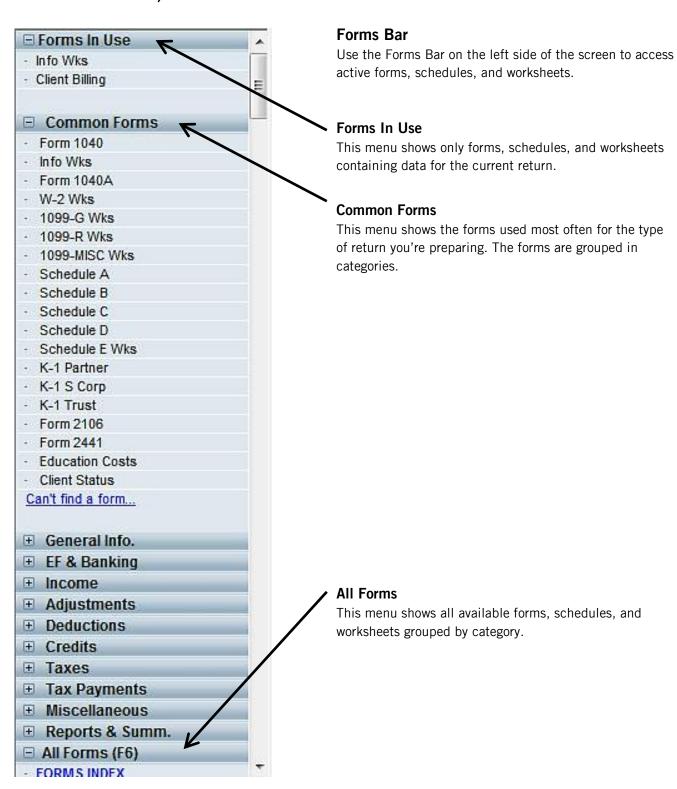
ProSeries Overview, Cont.

Client Data Toolbar

Once you have opened a return, you will see the client data toolbar at the top of the screen.

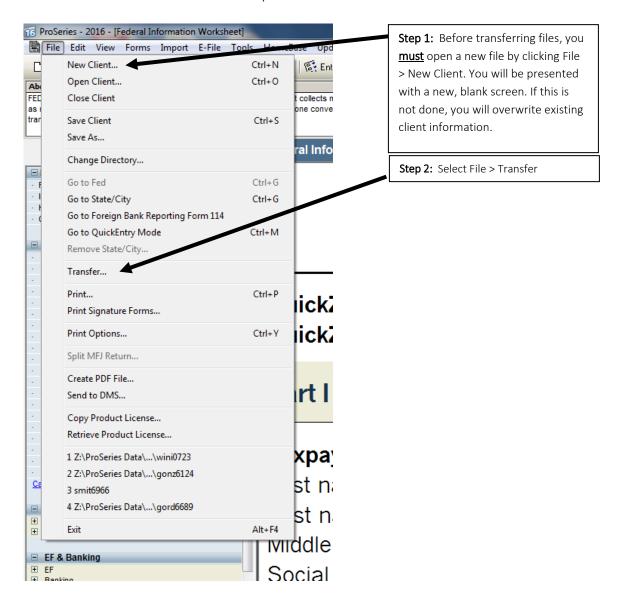


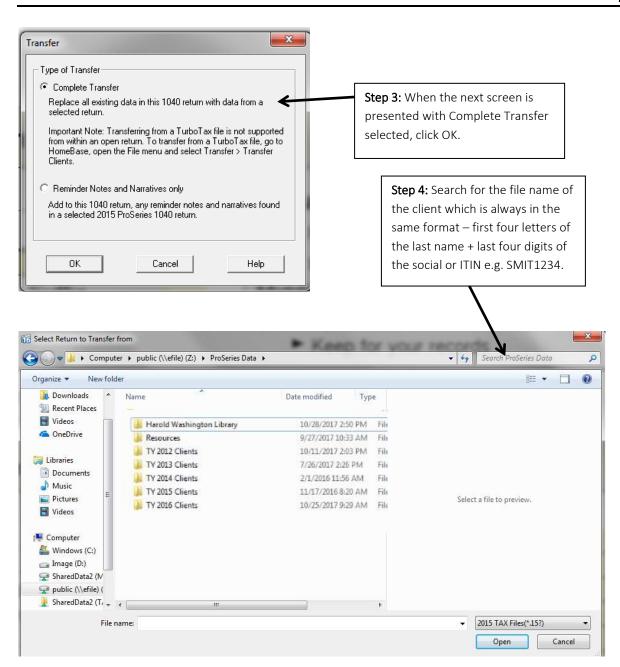
ProSeries Overview, Cont.

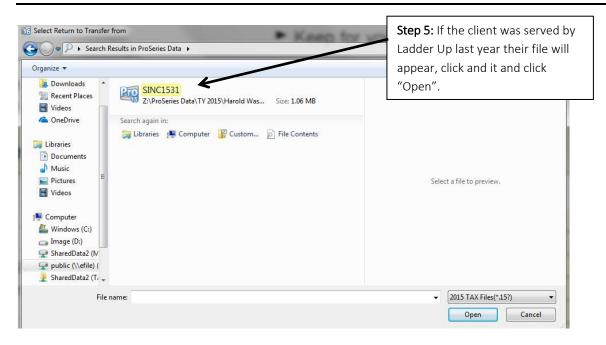


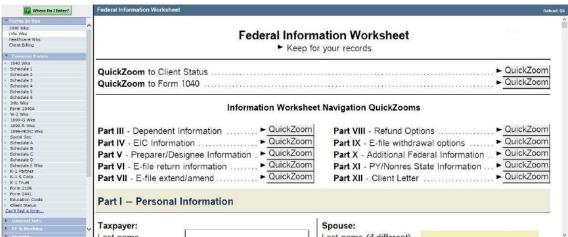
Transfer Client File from a Previous Year

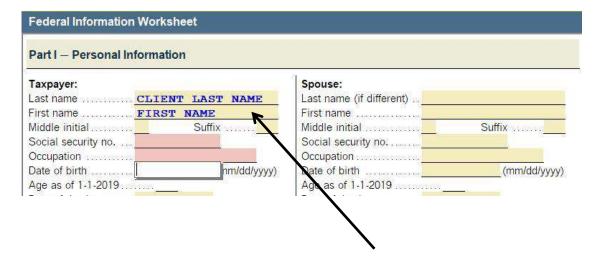
<u>Note</u>: you can only transfer forward if the client had their return by Ladder Up last year. For example, you can transfer a 2017 file forward to 2018 but you cannot transfer a 2016 file forward to 2018.

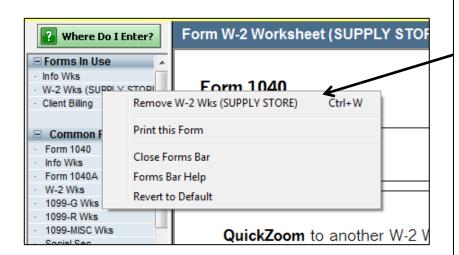












Step 6: The client's Federal and State Information Worksheet will prepopulate in green in a number of fields, however, be sure to go over this information with the client. Also, be sure to remove client tax documents from the prior year that are no longer relevant for the current tax year (for instance, if the client switched jobs).

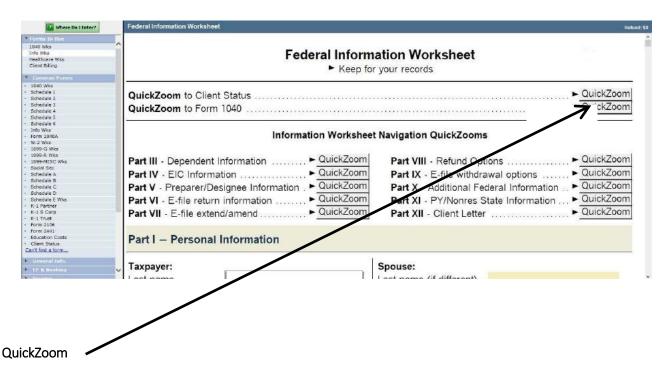
A form can be removed by right clicking over the form in the Forms in Use Bar and selecting "Remove this Form".

Federal Information Worksheet (FIW) Overview

When you open a new or existing client file, ProSeries automatically takes you to the Federal Information Worksheet (FIW). All information needed for the FIW is found on the IRS Intake Sheet and the TAP client data sheet or by asking the client.

ProSeries automatically transfers information from worksheets to the appropriate places on the Form 1040. Worksheets also organize related data in one place, making it easier for you to enter information for your client's return.

PLEASE TURN CAPS LOCK ON BEFORE STARTING YOUR RETURN



At the top and bottom of the FIW, you will see a "QuickZoom" button that will take you to Form 1040. ProSeries uses QuickZoom buttons to take you to related forms and worksheets.

IMPORTANT: The FIW comprises 12 parts, not all of which you need to complete.

Complete	Skip
Part I – Personal Information	Part V – Preparer Information
Part II – Filing Status	Part VI – Electronic Filing – quality reviewers only
Part III – Dependents (if applicable)	Part VII – E-Filing of Extension
Part IV – EITC Information	Part IX – Electronic Funds Withdrawal Options
Part VIII – Direct Deposit	Part XI – Part-year and Nonresident State filing
Part X – Additional Return Information	Part XII – Client Letter

FIW Part I: Personal Information

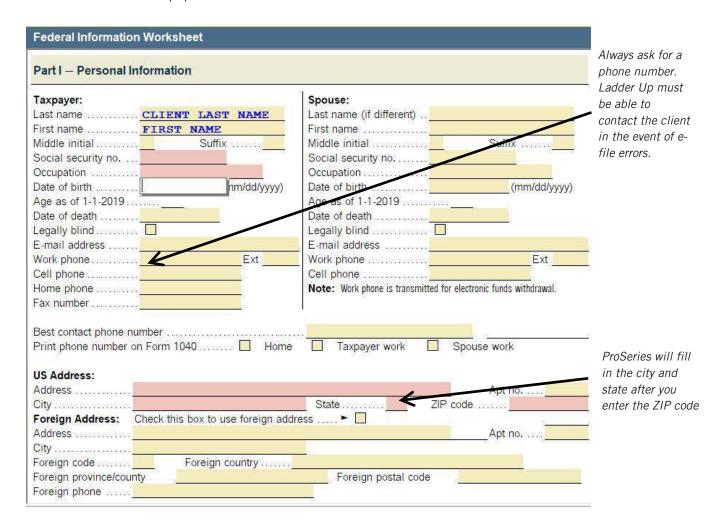
Talk with the client to confirm that all personal information (e.g., names, birthdates, tax identification numbers) entered on the IRS Intake Sheet and TAP client data sheet are correct.

If a client is a nonresident or resident alien and does not have and is not eligible to receive a Social Security number, they must first file Form W-7, Application for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), if the client does not currently have an ITIN. If your client does not have (or has an expired) ITIN, their returns cannot be prepared at tax site. The client can request to make an ITIN appointment at the Ladder Up office by emailing ITIN@goladderup.org or calling (312) 409-1555.

REMEMBER TO TURN CAPS LOCK ON

ProSeries Hints:

- Press "tab" to move to the next field
- Pink fields must be populated



Federal Information Worksheet, Part I: Personal Information, Cont.

Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Each person listed on the taxpayer's return must be identified by a valid TIN — the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse (if married), and all dependents (if any).

The TIN can be a Social Security number (SSN), an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), or an Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number (ATIN).

Check the accuracy of each TIN as well as the spelling of the name associated with the number by reviewing the client data sheet filled out by the client and by asking to see Social Security cards and/or ITIN cards or letters.



If the taxpayer or anyone on his return has an ITIN with middle digits: 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 or 82 they must renew their ITINs before the return will be processed.

A client can set up an appointment at the Ladder Up office by e-mailing ITIN@goladderup.org or calling (312) 409-1555.

If the Client Does Not Have a TIN

If a client is a nonresident or resident alien and does not have and is not eligible to receive a Social Security number, they must file Form W-7, Application for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. If the client does not currently have a valid ITIN, we cannot complete their tax returns. The client can request to make an ITIN appointment at the Ladder Up office by e-mailing ITIN@goladderup.org or calling (312) 409-1555.

If a client already has an ITIN, enter it wherever a SSN is requested. An ITIN is a nine-digit number and always starts with the number 9.

Address

Use the IRS Intake Sheet to enter the client's address. Do not assume that the address printed on the client's income forms or other documents is correct.

Identity Theft

Being sensitive towards victims of identity theft is critical when assisting taxpayers through a confusing and frustrating situation. Those affected must enter an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) when completing their tax returns. Remember that victims of identity theft are:

- Victimized by identity thieves mostly through no fault of their own, and
- Trying to comply with tax laws filing a tax return and paying their fair share of taxes. Every December the IRS Identity Protection Specialization Unit (IPSU) mails Notice CP01A to taxpayers previously identified as identity theft victims. The notice includes a 6-digit IP PIN to be entered on the tax return. Taxpayers are mailed Notice CP01A every year as long as the identity theft indicator remains on their accounts (usually 3 years). Use the most recent IP PIN regardless of the tax year.

When assisting taxpayers who are or may be victims of identity theft:

lf	Then
Identity Protection (IP) PIN was	Ensure the IP PIN is input correctly on the tax return. Enter this in Part VI of
issued to primary and/or	the Federal Information Worksheet for taxpayer/spouse. Part III for
secondary taxpayer	dependent.
Taxpayer received an IP PIN but	1. Complete the tax return for the taxpayer.
did not bring it with him or her	2. Provide the taxpayer with a complete copy of the tax return and have them
	paper file their return.
	3. Refer to Replacing Lost or Missing IP PIN below
Taxpayer received an IP PIN but	1. Complete the tax return for the taxpayer.
misplaced or lost it	2. Provide the taxpayer with a complete copy of the tax return. (Provide two
	copies if the taxpayer will mail the tax return.)
	3. Refer to Replacing Lost or Missing IP PIN below.
If the taxpayer did not receive IP	1. Refer to Replacing Lost or Missing IP PIN below.
PIN but IRS rejected the e-filed tax	2. Provide taxpayer with two complete copies of the tax return.
return because the IP PIN was not	3. If taxpayer receives the original or a replacement IP PIN and wants to e-file,
entered	arrange for the taxpayer to provide the IP PIN by returning to the site or by
	phone (Ladder Up hotline: 312-409-4719).
	4. If IPSU doesn't provide the IP PIN, advise taxpayer to follow IPSU
	instructions in mailing the tax return. There may be processing delays as the
	IRS verifies the taxpayer's identity.
IP PIN was not issued to the	1. Advise the taxpayer to contact the IPSU for assistance. If required, the IPSU
taxpayer but IRS rejected the	will advise the taxpayer to complete Form 14039 and to mail it with his tax
taxpayer's tax return because the	return to the IRS.
taxpayer's primary/secondary SSN	2. Provide the taxpayer with two copies of his tax return.
was previously used	

Replacing a Lost or Missing IP PIN:

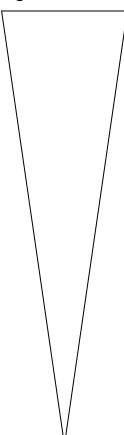
If a taxpayer did not receive his new IP PIN or misplaced it, he has two options:

- 1. A taxpayer can register and create a user profile to get his current IP PIN at http://irs.gov/uac/Get-An-Identity-Protection-PIN. The registration process will require the taxpayer to provide specific personal information and answer a series of questions to validate his identity. Due to enhanced security measures if the taxpayer is unable to verify their identity online, they will have to go in person to an IRS office to obtain their PIN
- 2. Contact IPSU at 1-800-908-4490 to receive a replacement IP PIN if the taxpayer is unable or unwilling to create an account on IRS.gov.

FIW Part II: Filing Status

Taxpayers must use one of five filing statuses. Filing status impacts the calculation of income tax, affects the amount of the standard deduction, and determines allowance or limitation of certain credits and deductions. More than one filing status can apply to a taxpayer; use the one that will result in the highest standard deduction.

Highest Deduction



Married Filing Jointly:

Married living together with or apart from his/her spouse, or if his/her spouse died during the tax year.

Qualifying Widow(er) with a Qualifying Child:

Widowed because their spouse died during 2016 or 2017, and with a qualifying child.

Head of Household:

Divorced, widowed, or separated for the last 6 months of the tax year and pays more than half the cost of maintaining a home with at least one qualifying person

Single:

Never married, divorced, widowed, or legally separated according to his/her state of law.

Married Filing Separately:

Married and living with, or apart from, his/her spouse.

Lowest Deduction

Use the following to determine the taxpayer's filing status:

- Information provided by the taxpayer on the IRS Form 13614-C
- Filing Status Interview Tips (following page)

The above are often sufficient to determine filing status for the taxpayer. However, sometimes more information is required at which point the following can be used to probe further:

- A detailed section starting on the following page about each filing status
- Speaking with the taxpayer to clarify any other questions

Determination of Filing Status – Interview Tips

Filing Status - Interview Tips

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:



Were you married on December 31 of the tax year? You are considered unmarried if, on the last day of the year, you were legally separated from your spouse under a divorce or separate maintenance decree. State law governs whether you are married or legally separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree. Individuals who have entered into a registered domestic partnership, civil union, or other similar relationship that is not called a marriage under state (or foreign) law are not considered married. A taxpayer is married regardless of where the spouse lives.

If YES, go to Step 2. If NO, go to Step 4.



Do you and your spouse wish to file a joint return?

If YES, your filing status is married filing jointly. If NO, go to Step 3.2



Do all the following apply?



- · You file a separate return from your spouse
- · You paid more than half the cost of keeping up your home for the required period of time.
- Your spouse didn't live in your home during the last 6 months of the tax year 3
- Your home was the main home of your child, stepchild, or foster child for more than half the
 year. Include any individual who would qualify as your dependent except: he or she does not
 meet the gross income test, does not meet the joint return test, or if you could be claimed as a
 dependent of another taxpayer. (a grandchild doesn't meet this test)
- You claim an exemption for the child (unless the noncustodial parent claims the child under rules for divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart)

If YES, STOP. You are considered unmarried and your filing status is head of household. If NO, STOP. Your filing status is married filing separately⁵.



Did your spouse die in 2016 or 2017?



If YES, go to Step 5. If NO, go to Step 6.



Do all the following apply?



You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse for the year your spouse died

- · You didn't remarry before the end of this tax year
- You have a child or stepchild who lived with you all year, except for temporary absences or
 other limited exceptions, and who is your dependent or who would qualify as your dependent
 except that: he or she does not meet the gross income test, does not meet the joint return
 test, or except that you may be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. Don't include a
 grandchild or foster child.
- You paid more than half the cost of keeping up the home for the required period of time.¹

If YES, STOP. Your filing status is qualifying widow(er) with dependent child. If NO, go to Step 6.



Do both of the following apply?



- You paid more than 1/2 the cost of keeping up your home for the required period of time.
- A "qualifying person," (see Who Is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You To File as Head of Household? chart), lived with you in your home for more than 1/2 the year.

YES – Head of Household NO – Single

Footnotes

- ¹ Include in the cost of upkeep expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, real estate taxes, insurance on the home, repairs, utilities and food eaten in the home. Under proposed regulations, a taxpayer may treat a home's fair market rental value as a cost of maintaining a household instead of the sum of payments for mortgage interest, property taxes and insurance. See "Cost of Keeping Up a Home" worksheet later in this tab.
- You are considered unmarried for head of household purposes if your spouse was a nonresident alien at any time during the year and you do not choose to treat your nonresident spouse as a resident alien. However, your spouse is not a qualifying person for head of household purposes. You must have another qualifying person (see the Who Is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You To File as Head of Household? chart later in this tab) and meet the other tests to be eligible to file as a head of household.
- The term "considered unmarried" refers to a taxpayer who has been deserted or abandoned by their spouse and is therefore no longer part of a functioning marital unit. Your spouse is considered to live in your home even if he or she is temporarily absent due to illness, education, business, vacation, military service, or incarceration.
- 4 You can't use head of household filing status based on any person who is your dependent only because he or she lived with you for the entire year (for example, a companion or a friend).
- ⁵ If filing a MFS return in a community property state, allocate income and expense according to state law. May be treated as out of scope

Married or Single

In general, a taxpayer's filing status depends on whether he is considered single or married. The first step is to confirm his marital status on the last day of the tax year.

Generally, a taxpayer is considered single for the entire year if, on the last day of the tax year, the taxpayer has:

- Never married,
- Legally separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree, or
- Divorced under a final decree on or before December 31st of the tax year, or
- Widowed before January 1, 2018 and did not remarry before the end of 2018.

Although a taxpayer is considered single, the taxpayer may qualify for another filing status that gives a lower tax, such as Head of Household or Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child, discussed later in this manual.

Taxpayers are considered to be **married** for the entire year if:

- They were married and living together on the last day of the tax year,
- They were married and living apart, but not legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance this is true even if they have lived apart for many years.
- They were separated under an interlocutory (not final) decree of divorce,
- The spouse died during the year and the surviving spouse has not remarried, or
- The spouse died during the year and the surviving spouse remarried prior to December 31.
- Note that a marriage in a foreign country is recognized for tax purposes.

Married Filing Jointly or Separately

If the taxpayer is considered married, the next step is to determine if the couple wishes to file a joint return.

Married taxpayers must generally file either as Married Filing Jointly or Married Filing Separately. **There is one exception**. Taxpayers are sometimes considered unmarried according to the IRS definition, even if they are not divorced or legally separated, and may be able to use the Head of Household filing status, which may result in a lower tax than Married Filing Separately. See page 56 of the topic, Head of Household, to determine if the definition of "considered unmarried" applies.

Married Filing Jointly

Married taxpayers can select this status even if one of the spouses did not have any income or any deductions. If they choose this status, they will use one return to report their combined income and to deduct combined allowable expenses.

Taxpayers may use the Married Filing Jointly status if on the <u>last day of the tax year</u> they are <u>married</u> and one of the following conditions applies:

- They live together as a married couple,
- They live apart but are not legally separated or divorced,
- They live together in a recognized common-law marriage,
- They are separated under an interlocutory (not final) divorce decree,

Married Filing Jointly, Cont.

- The taxpayer's spouse died during the year and the taxpayer has not remarried, or
- The spouse died during the year and the surviving spouse remarried prior to December 31 (note that the deceased spouse's filing status would be Married Filing Separately for that year).



It does not matter if one spouse does not have any income. Taxpayers can choose either the Married Filing Jointly or the Married Filing Separately status even if only one spouse has income.

Taxpayers who file a joint return must combine their income and deductions on the same return. Both spouses:

- Must sign the return
- Are responsible for any tax owed on the return (Note: See Volunteer Tax Manual Special Topics: Injured Spouse, Form 8379)

A U.S. resident or citizen who is married to a nonresident alien can file a joint return as long as both spouses agree to be taxed on their worldwide income.

Married Filing Separately

The Married Filing Separately (MFS) status is for taxpayers who are married and either:

- Choose to file separate returns, or
- Cannot agree to file a joint return

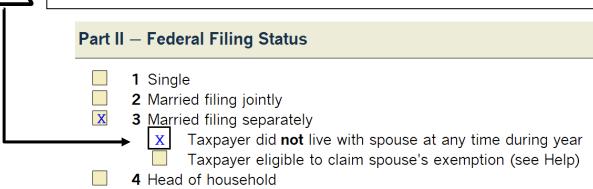
Married taxpayers may choose the Married Filing Separately status, which means the husband and wife report their own incomes and deductions on separate returns.



A married taxpayer who files separately must show the spouse's name and Social Security number or ITIN on the return. If the taxpayer does not have the SSN or ITIN of their spouse, type "Unknown" and have the taxpayer paper file their return.



Get in the habit of marking whether the taxpayer lived with their spouse at any time during the year. This greatly affects the taxability of Social Security Benefits if the taxpayer received them.



Why Are Taxes Usually Higher for Married Filing Separately?

Special rules apply to Married Filing Separately taxpayers, which generally result in taxpayers paying a higher tax. For example, when filing separately:

- The tax rate is generally higher than on a joint return
- Taxpayers cannot take credits for child and dependent care expenses, earned income, and certain adoption and education expenses
- Some credits and deductions are reduced at income levels that are half those for a joint return such as the child tax credit and the retirement savings contribution credit



One common reason taxpayers file as Married Filing Separately is to avoid an offset of their refund against their spouse's outstanding debts. This includes past-due child support, past-due student loans, or a tax liability the spouse incurred before the marriage.

If married taxpayers tell you they want to file separately, you should ask if a potential refund offset is the reason. If it is, you can suggest that they file a joint return with a Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. See Volunteer Tax Manual – Special Topics: Injured Spouse, Form 8379 for more information.

Married Filing Separately and Itemization

If a taxpayer uses the Married Filing Separately filing status and the spouse itemizes deductions, the taxpayer must:

- Also itemize deductions, or
- Claim zero as the standard deduction

Standard Deduction/Itemized Deductions: Itemize even if itemized deductions are less than standard deduction Married filing separately and spouse itemizes deductions Use standard deduction even if less than itemized deductions Mark this in Part X of the Federal Information Worksheet

For the complete list of special rules, see Publication 17, Filing Status.

The question of who is itemizing only comes into consideration for the taxpayer filing as Married Filing Separately. Taxpayers qualified to file as Head of Household can take the standard deduction even if their spouse is itemizing.

Head of Household

In general, the Head of Household status is for unmarried taxpayers who paid more than half the cost of keeping up a home for a qualifying person who lived with them in the home for more than half the tax year.

A qualifying person is defined as:

- A qualifying child
- A married child who can be claimed as a dependent
- A dependent parent
- A qualifying relative who lived with the taxpayer for more than half the year and is one of the relatives listed in *Table 2: Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative*, Step 2)

The qualifying person for Head of Household filing status must be *related* to the taxpayer. A person may be a "qualifying relative" *dependent*, but *not* qualify the taxpayer for Head of Household filing status. For example, a companion or friend who lives with the taxpayer all year may be the taxpayer's "qualifying relative" dependent but not a person that qualifies the taxpayer for Head of Household filing status.

Example:

Since her husband died five years ago, Joan has lived with her friend, Mary Ann, who is also a widow. Joan is a U.S. citizen, is single, and lived with Mary Ann all year. Joan had no income and received all of her support from Mary Ann.

Joan is Mary Ann's qualifying relative dependent because she lived with Mary Ann all year as a member of her household. Mary Ann can claim Joan as a dependent on her return.

However, Joan would *not* qualify Mary Ann to file as Head of Household. Joan is not related in one of the ways listed in Publication 17 under "Relatives who do not have to live with you," also listed in Table 2: Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative, Step 2, and she does not fall under the "other relative" definition explained in the table Who is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You to File as Head of Household? on page 60.

A qualifying person who is the taxpayer's dependent parent does not have to live with the taxpayer. If the taxpayer is maintaining a home that is the principal place of abode for the parent(s), it does not have to be the same home as that of the taxpayer. However, the parent(s) must qualify as the taxpayer's dependent(s) in order for the taxpayer to qualify as Head of Household.

Taxpayers must specify the person who qualifies them for the Head of Household status. Otherwise the IRS must delay processing to contact the taxpayer and obtain the information. See page 63 for ProSeries details.

For more information, refer to the table *Who is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You to File as Head of Household?* on page 60.

Keeping Up a Home

Valid household expenses considered in the cost of keeping up a home include:

- Rent, mortgage interest, real estate taxes
- Home insurance, repairs, utilities
- Food eaten in the home

Welfare or other public assistance payments are not considered amounts that the taxpayer provides to keep up a home. However, these payments must be included in the total cost of keeping up the home to determine if the taxpayer paid over half the cost.



Many filing status errors involve the Head of Household status, so be sure the taxpayer meets ALL of the qualifications before selecting Head of Household status.

Unmarried Taxpayers

The Head of Household status generally results in a lower tax than filing as Single. Accordingly, single taxpayers (and certain married taxpayers) should file as Head of Household status if they qualify.

Considered Unmarried (Married and Living Apart with Dependent Child)

Some married taxpayers who live apart from their spouse and provide for dependent children may be "considered unmarried" for tax purposes and therefore qualify as Head of Household. They should be advised that they can use the Head of Household status to get a lower tax rather than using the Married Filing Separately status. These taxpayers are permitted to file as Head of Household and receive the benefit of lower tax amounts if they:

- File a return, separate from their spouse, for the tax year.
- Paid more than half the cost of keeping up their home for the year. See the Cost of Keeping Up a Home worksheet in Publication 17, Filing Status.
- Lived apart from their spouse during the entire last six months of the tax year. The spouse is considered to have lived in the home even if temporarily absent due to special circumstances, such as military service or education.
- Provided the main home for more than half the year of a dependent child, stepchild, or foster child placed by an authorized agency. This test is met if the taxpayer cannot claim the child only because the noncustodial parent can claim the child using the rules for Children of divorced or separated parents.

For these married taxpayers, "qualifying child" includes biological, adopted, foster, and stepchildren, but does not include grandchildren, brother, sister or their descendants (for example, niece, nephew). Only unmarried taxpayers may be able to use a grandchild, niece, or nephew as a qualifying child for Head of Household status.

Cost of Keeping Up a Home Keep for Your Records Amount You Total Paid Cost Property Taxes* \$_____ \$___ \$_____ \$___ Mortgage interest expenses* Rent ____ \$___ Utility charges \$_____\$___ \$_____\$___ Property insurance* \$_____\$___ Food eaten in the home Other household expenses \$_____ \$___ \$_____ \$___ *Fair market rental value *Under proposed regulations, fair market rental value (instead of the sum of payments for property taxes, mortgage interest expenses, and property insurance) Totals Minus total amount you paid Amount others paid If the total amount you paid is more than the amount others paid, you meet the requirement of paying more than half the cost of keeping up the home Note: Costs you include. Include in the cost of keeping up a home expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, real estate taxes and insurance on the home, repairs, utilities, and food eaten in the home. As an alternative to including mortgage interest, real estate taxes, and insurance under proposed regulations, you may include the fair market rental value of the home. Costs you don't include. Don't include the cost of clothing, education, medical treatment, vacations, life insurance, or transportation. Also, don't include the value of your services or those of a member of your household.

Head of Household Status in Year of Spouse's Death

A taxpayer whose spouse died during the year (even if they were not living together but were still legally married) and has a qualifying child, may also qualify as Head of Household.

Head of Household Status, when Spouse does NOT meet the substantial presence test

A taxpayer who is married to a nonresident alien spouse may be able to file as Head of Household even if the taxpayer lived with the spouse for the year if the following apply:

- The spouse does not meet the substantial presence test. This generally only applies to individuals with specific temporary visas such as foreign students or temporary workers on J1 visas. This does not include a spouse that is undocumented (without a visa), has a work visa, or is a resident.
- The taxpayer is a U.S. citizen, or resident alien for the entire year.
- The nonresident alien spouse chooses not to file a joint return. Mostly, choosing Married Filing Jointly results in lower tax rates, but consider whether the nonresident alien spouse disqualifies the taxpayer from any credits, refundable credits, or deductions.
- The taxpayer meets the other requirements for this filing status.
- The spouse is not a qualifying person for head of household purposes. The taxpayer must have a qualifying person in order to be eligible for this filing status.

Who Is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You To File as Head of Household?

DON'T use this chart alone. Use as directed by the interview tips on the previous page.

IF the person is your	AND	THEN that person is
qualifying child (such as a son, daughter, or grandchild who lived with	he or she is single	a qualifying person, whether or not you can claim the person as a dependent.
you more than half the year and meets certain	he or she is married <u>and</u> you can claim him or her as a dependent	a qualifying person.
other tests) ²	he or she is married <u>and</u> you can't claim him or her as a dependent	not a qualifying person.3
qualifying relative⁴ who	you can claim him or her as a dependent ⁵	a qualifying person.6
is your father or mother	you can't claim him or her as a dependent	not a qualifying person.
qualifying relative ⁴ other than your father or mother.	he or she lived with you more than half the year, <u>and</u> you can claim him or her as a dependent, <u>and</u> is one of the following: son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, or a descendant of any of them; your brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister or a son or daughter of any of them; an ancestor or sibling of your father or mother; or stepbrother, stepsister, stepfather, stepmother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law ⁵	a qualifying person.
	he or she didn't live with you more than half the year	not a qualifying person.
	he or she isn't related to you in one of the ways listed above <u>and</u> is your qualifying relative only because he or she lived with you all year as a member of your household (for example, a companion or a friend)	not a qualifying person.
	you can't claim him or her as a dependent	not a qualifying person.

Footnotes

A person can't qualify more than one taxpayer to use the head of household filing status for the year.

² The term "qualifying child" is covered in Tab C, Dependents. Note: If you are a noncustodial parent, the term "qualifying child" for head of household filing status doesn't include a child who is your dependent only because of the rules described under Children of divorced or separated parents. If you are the custodial parent and those rules apply, the child generally is your qualifying child for head of household filing status even though the child isn't a qualifying child who you can claim as a dependent.

³ This person is a qualifying person if the only reason you can't claim him or her as a dependent is that you can be claimed as a dependent on someone

⁴ The term "qualifying relative" is covered in Tab C, Dependents.

⁵ If you can claim a person as a dependent only because of a multiple support agreement, that person isn't a qualifying person. See Multiple Support Agreement, in Publication 17.

⁶ You are eligible to file as head of household even if your parent, whom you can claim as a dependent, doesn't live with you. You must pay more than half the cost of keeping up a home that was the main home for the entire year for your parent. This test is met if you pay more than half the cost of keeping your parent in a rest home or home for the elderly.

Qualifying Widow(er) with Qualifying Child

A widow or widower with one or more dependent children may be able to use the Qualifying Widow(er) with Qualifying Child filing status. This filing status yields as low a tax amount as Married Filing Jointly and is available for only two years following the year of the spouse's death.



When seeking detailed information, be sensitive to the taxpayer's feelings. Talking about a deceased spouse may be upsetting for someone regardless of how much time has passed.

Criteria

To qualify for the Qualifying Widow(er) with Qualifying Child filing status, the taxpayer must:

- Have had a spouse who died in 2016 or 2017. The taxpayer must not remarry before the end of 2018
- Have been eligible to file a joint return for the year the spouse died; it does not matter if a joint return was actually filed
- Have a child, stepchild, or adopted¹ child who qualifies as the taxpayer's dependent for the year or would qualify as the taxpayer's dependent except that he or she does not meet the gross income test, or does not meet the joint return test, or except that the taxpayer may be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer; this does not include a grandchild or a foster child; read more about dependents under *Volunteer Manual FIW Part III: Dependents*, starting on page 64.
- Have lived with this child in the taxpayer's home all year, except for temporary absences
- Have paid more than half the cost of keeping up the home² for the year

Filing After the Spouse's Death

IF the taxpayer does not remarry AND has a qualifying dependent				
For TAX YEAR	THEN use Filing Status	Can an Standard Deduction Be Claimed for the Deceased Spouse?		
Year of death	Married Filing Jointly or Married Filing Separately	Yes		
First year after death	Qualifying Widow(er)	No		
Second year after death	Qualifying Widow(er)	No		
After second year of death	Head of Household	No		

Widowed taxpayers who file a joint return with their deceased spouse do not need to file a separate return. If a joint return is not being filed, the widow(er) or executor of the deceased's will must file a return on behalf of the

¹ The term "adopted child" includes a child placed with the taxpayer by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption.

² Social Security survivor benefits received on behalf of the child are considered to be furnished by the child, not by the parent.

deceased spouse whose income exceeded certain limits. See <i>Volunteer Manual – Special Topics: Injured Spouse</i>
– Form 8379 and Publication 559, Survivors, Executors, and Administrators, for more information.

Indicating Filing Status in ProSeries

Once the correct filing status is determined, mark the appropriate box in FIW Part II in ProSeries:

Federal Information Worksheet	
Part II — Federal Filing Status	
1 Single 2 Married filing jointly 3 Married filing separately	
If qualifying person is child but not dependent: Child's First name Child's social security number MI Last Name	Suff
S Qualifying widow(er) Year spouse died	Suff

Reminder for Head of Household Filing Status: Taxpayers must specify the person who qualifies them for the Head of Household status. Otherwise the IRS must delay processing until contacting the taxpayer and obtaining the information.

for more information.

If the qualifying person is a **dependent**, enter the dependent's information in Part III of the Federal Information Worksheet. The field in Line 4 of Part II will no longer be pink.

If the qualifying person is the taxpayer's unmarried child who is **not a dependent** because the non-custodial parent claimed them under the special rules for children of divorced or separated parents, enter the child's name in the pink field in Part II of the FIW, and the child's Social Security number in the line beneath the name.

Note: When Head of Household is selected, the child's first name and child's Social Security number fields initially become pink. Read below

See the next section about Dependency for more information.

FIW Part III: Dependents

Each dependent must be entered into the Federal Information Worksheet, Part III. While personal exemptions have been eliminated beginning in 2018, claiming dependents is important because many tax credits depend on whether dependents are claimed.

Once an individual is claimed as a dependent, he or she is precluded from claiming anyone as a dependent. (i.e. if a grandparent claims a parent then the parent cannot claim their child, since the parent is claimed by a grandparent.)

A spouse is never considered a dependent.

Determining Dependency

There are four tests for determining dependency:

- 1. Dependent Taxpayer Test
 - In order to claim a dependent, the taxpayer and/or spouse cannot be claimed on someone else's return.
- 2. Joint Return Test

You can't claim a married person who files a joint return as a dependent unless that joint return is only to claim a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid.

3. Citizen or Resident Test

The dependent must be one of the following:

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. resident alien (for tax purposes)
- U.S. national
- Resident of Canada/Mexico (foreign exchange students do not meet this test)

Exception: For a taxpayer who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and has legally adopted a child who is not a U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, or U.S. national, this test is met if the child lived with the taxpayer as a member of his household all year. This exception also applies if the child was lawfully placed with the taxpayer for legal adoption.

- 4. A dependent is determined to be one of the following based on Relationship, Age, Residency, Support and other specific tests:
 - A qualifying child (Use Table 1: Dependency for Qualifying Child on page 66), or
 - A qualifying relative (Use Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents on page 67)

Overview of the Rules for Claiming a Dependent



This table is only an overview of the rules. For details, see Publication 17, Your Federal Income for Individuals.

- You can't claim any dependents if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, could be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.
- You can't claim a married person who files a joint return as a dependent unless that joint return is only to claim a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid.
- You can't claim a person as a dependent unless that person is a U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, U.S. national, or a resident of Canada or Mexico.¹
- · You can't claim a person as a dependent unless that person is your qualifying child or qualifying relative.

Tests To Be a Qualifying Child Tests To Be a Qualifying Relative 1. The child must be your son, daughter, stepchild, foster 1. The person can't be your qualifying child or the child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, qualifying child of any other taxpayer. A child isn't the qualifying child of any other taxpayer if the stepsister, or a descendant of any of them. child's parent (or any other person for whom the child is defined as a qualifying child) isn't required to file an income tax return or files an income tax return only to get a refund of income tax withheld. 2. The person either (a) must be related to you in 2. The child must be: (a) under age 19 at the end of the year and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing one of the ways listed under Relatives who don't jointly), (b) under age 24 at the end of the year, a fullhave to live with you (see Table 2, step 2), or (b) time student, and younger than you (or your spouse, if must live with you all year as a member of your filing jointly), or (c) any age if permanently and totally household2 (and your relationship must not violate local law) 3. The child must have lived with you for more than half of 3. The person's gross income for the year must be less than \$4,150.3 Gross income means all income the year.2 the person received in the form of money, goods, property and services, that isn't exempt from tax. Don't include social security benefits unless the person is married filing a separate return and lived with their spouse at any time during the tax year or if 1/2 the social security benefits plus their other gross income and tax exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if MFJ). 4. You must provide more than half of the person's 4. The child must not have provided more than half of his or her own support for the year.5 total support for the year.4.5 5. The child isn't filing a joint return for the year (unless that joint return is filed only to claim a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid). 6. If the child meets the rules to be a qualifying child of more than one person, you must be the person entitled to claim the child as a qualifying child. See the "Qualifying Child of More Than One Person" chart.

Footnotes

¹ There is an exception for certain adopted children.

² There are exceptions for temporary absences, children who were born or died during the year, children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart, and kidnapped children. If you obtained a final decree of divorce or separate maintenance during the year, you can't take your former spouse's exemption. This rule applies even if you provided all of your former spouse's support.

 $^{^{3}}$ There is an exception if the person is disabled and has income from a sheltered workshop

⁴ There are exceptions for multiple support agreements, children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart, and kidnapped children.

⁵ A worksheet for determining support is provided later in this tab. If a person receives social security benefits and uses them toward his or her own support, those benefits are considered as provided by the person. Benefits provided by the state to a needy person are generally considered support provided by the state. A proposed rule on which taxpayers may choose to rely treats governmental payments made to a recipient that the recipient uses, in part, to support others as support of the others provided by the recipient, whereas any part of such payment used for the support of the recipient would constitute support of the recipient by a third party. For example, if a mother receives Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and uses the TANF payments to support her children, the proposed regulations treat the mother as having provided that support.

Table 1: All Dependents

step	Can you or your spouse (if filing jointly) be claimed as a	
•	dependent on another taxpayer's tax return this year?	If YES : If you can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer, you may not claim anyone else as your dependent. If NO : Go to Step 2
step	Was the person married as of December 31, 2018?	If YES : Go to Step 3 If NO : Go to Step 4
step	Is the person filing a joint return for this tax year? (Answer "NO" if the person is filing a joint return only to claim a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid.)	If YES : You can't claim this person as a dependent. If NO : Go to Step 4
step 4	Was the person a U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, U.S. national, or a resident of Canada or Mexico? (Answer "YES" if you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and you adopted a child who lived with you as a member of your household all year.)	If YES : Go to Step 5 If NO : You can't claim this person as a dependent.
step 5	Was the person your son, daughter, stepchild, eligible foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (i.e., your grandchild, niece, or nephew)?	If YES : Go to Step 6 If NO : This person isn't your qualifying child. Go to Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents
step 6	Was the person: -under age 19 at the end of the year and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) OR -under age 24 at the end of the year, a full-time student (see definition in the glossary) and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) OR -any age if permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year?	If YES : Go to Step 7 If NO : This person isn't your qualifying child. Go to Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents
step	Did the person live with you as a member of your household, except for temporary absences ² , for more than half the year? (Answer "YES" if the child was born or died during the year.)	If YES: Go to Step 8 (Use Table 3 to see if the exemption for children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart applies.) If NO: This person isn't your qualifying child. Go to Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents
step	Did the person provide more than half of his or her own support ³ for the year?	If YES : You can't claim this person as a dependent If NO : Go to Step 9

Footnotes

A person is permanently and totally disabled if he or she can't engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a physical or mental condition, AND a doctor determines the condition has lasted or can be expected to last continuously for at least a year or can lead to death.

² A child is considered to have lived with you during periods of time when one of you, or both, are temporarily absent due to illness, education, business, vacation, military service, institutionalized care for a child who is permanently and totally disabled, or incarceration. In most cases a child of divorced or separated parents is the qualifying child of the custodial parent. See Table 3: Children of Divorced or Separated Parents or Parents Who Live Apart to see if an exception applies. There is an exception for kidnapped children. See Publication 17.

³ A worksheet for determining support is included later in this tab. If a child receives social security benefits and uses them toward his or her own support, those benefits are considered as provided by the child. Benefits provided by the state to a needy person (welfare, food stamps, housing, SSI) are generally considered support provided by the state.

Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents

Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents

You must start with Table 1. (To claim a qualifying relative dependent, you must first meet the Dependent Taxpayer, Joint Return and Citizen or Resident Tests in steps 1-4 of Table 1)

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

0

Is the person your qualifying child or the qualifying child of any other taxpayer? A child isn't the qualifying child of any other taxpayer if the child's parent (or any other person for whom the child is defined as a qualifying child) isn't required to file a U.S. income tax return or files an income tax return only to get a refund of income tax withheld.

If **YES**, the person isn't a qualifying relative. (See Table 1: All Dependents)
If **NO**, go to Step 2.



Was the person your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, or a descendant of any of them (i.e., your grandchild)? OR

Was the person your brother, sister, half-brother, halfsister, or a son or daughter of any of them? OR Was the person your father, mother, or an ancestor or sibling of either of them? OR

Was the person your stepbrother, stepsister, stepfather, stepmother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law?

If NO, go to Step 3.
If YES, go to Step 4.

Note: The relatives listed in Step 2 are considered "Relatives who don't have to live with you"

Note: To enter into TaxSlayer a qualifying relative who did not live with the taxpayer more than 6 months, choose "Other reasons" from the months dropdown menu.



Was the person any other person (other than your spouse) who lived with you all year as a member of your household?²

If **NO**, you can't claim this person as a dependent.

If YES, go to Step 4.

Note: There are exceptions for kidnapped children; a child who was born or died during the year; certain temporary absences—school, vacation, medical care, etc. Divorced or separated spouse. If you obtained a final decree of divorce or separate maintenance during the year, you can't take your former spouse's exemption. This rule applies even if you provided all of your former spouse's support.



Did the person have gross income of less than \$4,150 in 2018?3

If NO, you can't claim this person as a dependent.

If YES, go to Step 5.

continued on next page

Footnotes

Gross income means all income the person received in the form of money, goods, property and services, that isn't exempt from tax. Don't include social security benefits unless the person is married filling a separate return and lived with their spouse at any time during the tax year or if 1/2 the social security benefits plus their other gross income and tax exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if MFJ).

Any of these relationships that were established by marriage aren't ended by death or divorce.

² A person doesn't meet this test if at any time during the year the relationship between you and that person violates local law.

³ For purposes of this test, the gross income of an individual who is permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year doesn't include income for services the individual performs at a sheltered workshop.

	1	
obe/A	ction: Ask the taxpayer:	
step 5	Did you provide more than half the person's total support for the year?	If YES , you can claim this person as your qualifying relative dependent. (Use Table 3 to see if the exception for children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart applies.) If NO , go to Step 6.
step	Did another person provide more than half the person's total support?	If YES , you can't claim this person as a dependent. If NO , go to Step 7.
step	Did two or more people, each of whom would be able to take the exemption but for the support test, together provide more than half the person's total support?	If YES , go to Step 8. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.
step	Did you provide more than 10% of the person's total support for the year?	If YES , go to Step 9. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.
step	Did the other person(s) providing more than 10% of the person's total support for the year provide you with a signed statement agreeing not to claim the dependent?	If YES , you can claim this person as a dependent. You must file Form 2120 with your return. If NO , you can't claim this person as a dependent.

Footnote

A worksheet for determining support is included at the end of this section.

See Table 3 for the exception to the support test for children of divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart.

If a child receives social security benefits and uses them toward his or her own support, those benefits are considered as provided by the child.

Benefits provided by the state to a needy person are generally considered support provided by the state. A proposed rule, on which taxpayers may choose to rely, treats governmental payments made to a recipient that the recipient uses, in part, to support others as support of the others provided by the recipient, whereas any part of such payment used for the support of the recipient would constitute support of the recipient by a third party. For example, if a mother receives TANF and uses the TANF payments to support her children, the proposed regulations treat the mother as having provided that support. provided that support.

Table 3: Children of Divorced or Separated Parents or Parents Who Live Apart

Table 3: Children of Divorced or Separated **Parents or Parents Who Live Apart**

Use this table when directed from Table 1 or Table 2 to determine if the exception applies to the qualifying child residency test or the qualifying relative support test

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

Did the child receive over half of his or her support from the parents who

If YES, go to Step 2.

If NO, Table 3 doesn't apply.

Divorced OR

Legally separated under a decree of divorce or

separate maintenance OR

Separated under a written separation agreement OR

Lived apart at all times during the last 6 months of the year?

step Was the child in the custody of one or both parents for more than half the year?1 2

If YES, go to Step 3. If NO, Table 3 doesn't apply.

step Did the custodial parent (parent with whom the child lived for the greater number of nights during the year) provide the taxpayer a signed written declaration (Form 8332, a copy of Form 8332, or similar document) releasing his or her claim to the exemption for the child?

If YES, the Table 3 exception applies.2 Return to the appropriate step in Table 1 or Table 2 If NO, go to Step 4.

Are either of the following statements true?

The taxpayer has a Post-1984 and Pre-2009 decree³ or agreement that is applicable for the current tax year and states all three of the following?

If YES, the Table 3 exception applies. Return to the appropriate step in Table 1 or Table 2 If NO, Table 3 doesn't apply.

- 1. The noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent without regard to any condition, such as payment of support.
- 2. The other parent won't claim the child as a dependent for the year.
- The years for which the noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent.

OR

The taxpayer has a Pre-1985 decree of divorce or separation maintenance or written separation agreement between the parents that provide that the noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent, and the noncustodial parent provides at least \$600 for support of the child during the current tax year?

Footnotes

1 If the child is emancipated under state law, either by reaching age of majority or other means, child is treated as not living with either parent (see Pub

3 Post-1984 and Pre-2009 divorce decrees or agreements:

The noncustodial parent must attach all of the following pages from the decree or agreement.

- -Cover page (include the other parent's SSN on that page)
- -The pages that include all the information identified in (1) through (3) above
- -Signature page with the other parent's signature and date of agreement.

Release of exemption revoked

A custodial parent who has revoked his or her previous release of a claim to exemption for a child must attach a copy of the revocation to his or her return. For the revocation to be effective for current tax year, the custodial parent must have given (or made reasonable efforts to give) written notice of the revocation to the noncustodial parent in the prior tax year or earlier. (See Form 8332 for more details)

Other decrees or agreements that don't meet step 4: Non-custodial parents must attach the Form 8332, or a copy of Form 8332 or similar statement to their return.

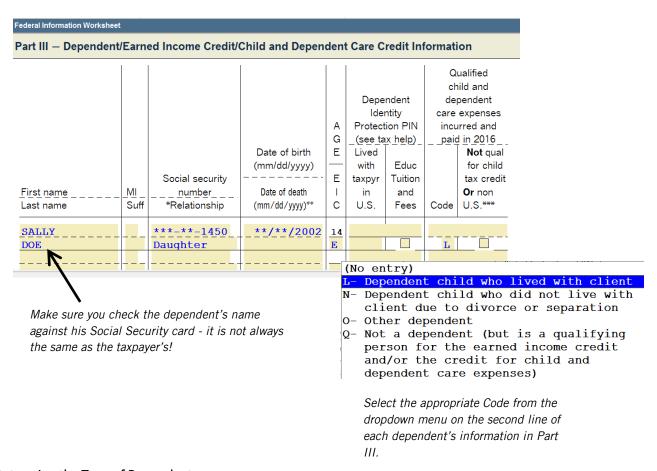
The following items aren't included in total support:

- Federal, state, and local income taxes paid by persons from their own income
- Social security and Medicare taxes paid by persons from their own income
- Life insurance premiums
- Funeral expenses
- Scholarships received by your child if your child is a student
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance payments used for the support of the child who receives them

² Post-2008 decree or agreement. If the divorce decree or separation agreement went into effect after 2008, the noncustodial parent can't attach pages from the decree or agreement instead of Form 8332. The custodial parent must sign, and the noncustodial parent must attach to his or her return, either Form 8332, or a copy of Form 8332 or a substantially similar statement the only purpose of which is to release the custodial parent's claim to a child. For an e-filed return, attach and submit the Form 8332 with Form 8453, U.S. Individual Income Tax Transmittal for an IRS e-file Return.

Completing Dependents Information in ProSeries

For each of the taxpayer's dependents, enter name, TIN, relationship, and date of birth. Then select the Code to indicate the type of dependent.



Determine the Type of Dependent

Use information on the IRS Intake Sheet and the dependency tests starting on page 64 to determine if the taxpayer can claim a person as a dependent.

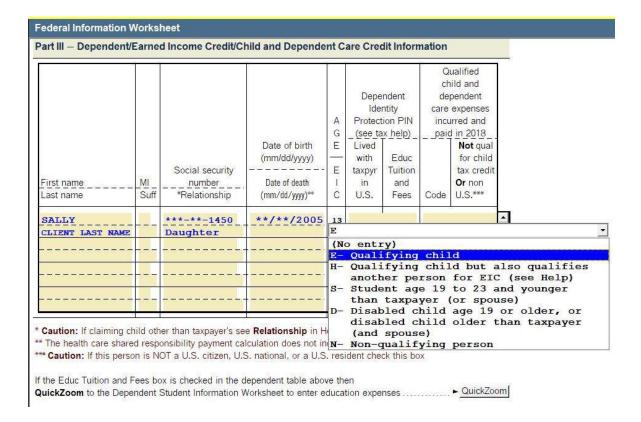
Code: A dropdown menu appears for the type of dependent:

- L: Dependent child who lived with client
- N: Dependent child who did not live with client due to divorce or separation
- O: Other dependent*
- Q: Not a dependent (but is a qualifying person for the EITC and/or the credit for child and dependent care expenses)**

^{*}Other Dependent refers to a Qualifying Relative - see Table 2: Qualifying Relative Dependents

^{**}This is commonly someone who lives with the primary taxpayer but for whom the taxpayer did not provide more than half of their support, or the child of divorced or separated parents who lived with the taxpayer but is claimed as a dependent by the non-custodial parent.

Determine Eligibility for Child Tax Credit, EITC, and Other Credits



- Not qualified for child tax credit: Generally, a credit can be claimed for a qualifying child under the dependency rules who is a U.S. citizen with a SSN issued before the due date for filing the return for the taxable year. For more information see *Volunteer Manual Credits: Child Tax Credit*, including special rules for dependents of taxpayers who do not have a SSN.
- **EIC:** A dropdown menu appears for the type of qualifying child for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). For more information, see *Volunteer Manual Credits: EITC*
 - E: Qualifying child
 - H: Qualifying child but also qualifies another person for EITC
 - S: Student age 19 to 23 and younger than taxpayer (enrolled in college at least part-time)
 - D: Disabled child age 19 or older, or disabled child older than taxpayer
 - **N:** Non-qualifying person
- Lived with taxpayer in US: Enter the number of months in the tax year that the dependent lived with the taxpayer. Do not subtract time for temporary absences such as school, illness, vacation, or military service.
- **Education, tuition and fees:** Only include <u>postsecondary</u> education expenses. K-12 expenses may be used for the Illinois return only.
- Qualified child and dependent care expenses: Generally, household and care services incurred for a dependent child under age 13 while a taxpayer works or is seeking work qualifies.
 - Fill in the total qualified expenses for each dependent here; Form 2441 will appear in the Forms In Use section to the left with errors. The details of the childcare expenses must be filled out later on Form 2441; see *Volunteer Manual Credits: Child and Dependent Care Expenses*.

Summary of Benefits for Taxpayers Claiming Dependents

	Sur	Summary of Dependency Requirements	ency Requirem	ents	
Tax Benefit	Age	Relationship	Residency ¹	Support	Other
Dependent - Qualifying Child	<19 (or <24 if a full- time student) and must be younger than the taxpayer; or any age if disabled	Child, stepchild, adopted or foster child, sibling, stepsibling, or descendent of any of them.	Lived 1/2+ year with the taxpayer	Child provided ≤ 1/2 of his or her own support fo rhte year	Child provided ≤ 1/2 of Child cannot be claimed by his or her own support another taxpayer as a for rhte year
Dependent -Qualifying Relative (QR)	Any age	If unrelated, then must have lived with the taxpayer for the entire year.	st have lived with ne entire year.	Taxpayer provided >1/2 the person's total support for the year	Relative's gross income cannot exceed \$4150²
Child Tax Credit	<17 and younger than the taxpayer	Child, stepchild, adopted or foster child, sibling, stepsibling, or descendent of any of them.	Lived 1/2+ year with the taxpayer	Child provided < 1/2 of his or her own support for the year	Taxpayers with ITINs can claim this credit, but child must have a SSN; child must be claimed as taxpayer's dependent
Credit for Other Dependents	All dependents that	do not qualify for the C resid	the Child Tax Credit provided that tl resident aliens of the United States	ded that they are U. S. ci ted States	dependents that do not qualify for the Child Tax Credit provided that they are U. S. citizens, U. S. nationals or resident aliens of the United States
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC/EIC)	<19 (or <24 if a full-time student) and must be younger than the taxpayer; or any age if disabled	Child, stepchild, adopted or foster child, sibling, stepsibling, or descendent of any of them.	Lived 1/2+ year with the taxpayer	No support test required, except for married children who cannot provide more than 1/2 their own support.	Taxpayer must have lived in the US for at least half of the year and have a SSN. Qualifying child must have a SSN. Cannot be filing MFS.

Does not include Social Security Income or, for disabled persons, income from a sheltered worskshop Special rules for temporary absence, such as illness, education, business, vacation or military service

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO FILE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

Taxpayer provided >1/2 the cost of keeping up the home where they lived over half the year with...

Their qualifying child as defined above; or

Their qualifying relative as defined above who is their descendent, ascendent, sibling, niece, nephew or in-law (parent does not have to live with them,

FIW Part IV – Earned Income Credit Information

You must answer the first two questions in Part IV in order for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to be properly calculated for your client:

1. Is the taxpayer or spouse a qualifying child for EITC for another person?

The only time you may need to check "Yes" is for a taxpayer under the age of 19 or a full-time student under age 24 that is a qualifying child for his parents.

2. Was the taxpayer's home in the United States for more than half of 2018?

The answer to this question is almost always "Yes" because one of TAP's requirements is that the client is a full-year Illinois resident. However, be aware of dual status alien situations in which a spouse came to the U.S. from abroad during the tax year. Returns for dual status aliens are <u>out-of-scope</u>.

Federal Information Worksheet	
Part IV — Earned Income Credit Information	
Required to Calculate EIC:	
Yes No	Look carefully a
Is taxpayer or spouse qualifying child for EIC for another person?	the items in this
Was taxpayer's (and spouse's if married filing jointly) home in United States	section and be
for more than half of 2018?	sure to ask
	clients if any of
Check Any that Apply:	these conditions
Social Security card says Not Valid for Employment and SSN of the taxpayer, or spouse if marri filing jointly, was obtained to get federally funded benefit, such as Medicaid (see Help)	ied apply
Taxpayer filing as head of household and lived with nonresident alien spouse during last six	
months of 2018	
Taxpayer notified by IRS that EIC cannot be claimed in 2018	
If taxpayer eligible for earned income credit:	12.11.12
quietzeem to review arrayor error arroants not considered arroants (see Fielp)	QuickZoom
QuickZoom to "due diligence" Form 8867 (Paid Preparer's EIC Checklist)	QuickZoom



Incomplete or incorrect responses in Part IV are common causes for missing the Earned Income Tax Credit on a taxpayer's return in ProSeries!

See Volunteer Manual – Credits: EITC for more information about the EIC.

FIW Parts V, VII: SKIP THESE PARTS



Select which returns we are preparing for the client that are eligible for e-file. If the client has out-of-state income and we are only preparing the Federal return, only select "File federal return electronically".

Part VI $-$ Electronic Filing of Tax R	Peturn Information
Electronic Filing: File federal return electronically	
QuickZoom to Form 8948: Preparer E	xplanation for Not Filing Electronically <u>QuickZoom</u>
File state or city returns electron	nically
Select state and city returns to file elec	tronically:
State(s)	

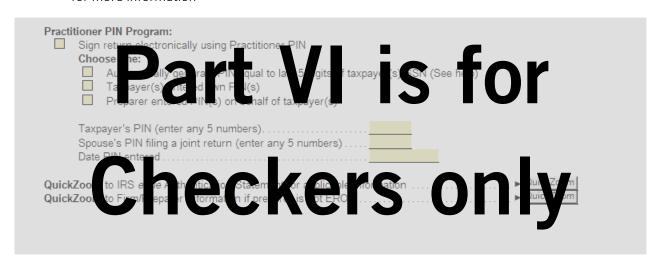


Identity Protection PIN:

If the IRS sent the taxpayer an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here If the IRS sent the spouse an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here



If the taxpayer or spouse received an Identity Protection PIN, enter the number here. See Volunteer Manual – FIW Part I: Identity Theft for more information

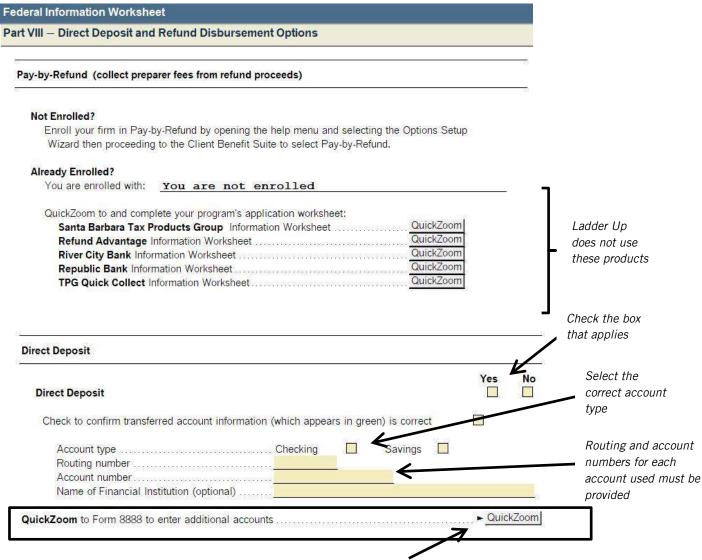


Both Preparers and Checkers skip Part VII.



FIW Part VIII – Direct Deposit Information and Refund Disbursement Options

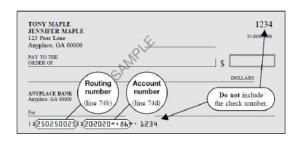
Refund Delivery



QuickZoom to Form 8888 in order to split refunds between multiple accounts.

See Volunteer Manual – Client Forms and Quality Review: Client Refund or Amount Due, page 244 for more information.

Only 3 direct deposit refunds are allowed per financial account. In addition, the refunds can only be deposited into accounts bearing the client's (taxpayer's) name(s).



Your client may bring in a checkbook, from which you can obtain the routing and account numbers.

Do not include the check number.



FIW Part X – Additional Federal Return Information

Some sections of Part X will be defaulted; for all others, check the appropriate boxes.

Federal In	nformation Worksheet		
Part X – A	Additional Federal Return Information		
Audit Ass	sistance & ID Theft Restoration		
	ssistance & ID Theft Restoration services are provided through Protection Plus. Audit as are provided for the 2018 tax return and ID theft restoration services are provided for a		
	PRegistered? Check this box if your client wishes to enroll in Protection Plus, Audit Assistance & ID Restoration for this tax return. By checking this box, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agreed to the Us Agreement and I agree that this electronic signature has the same full legal force and a handwritten signature or mark. Quick Zoom to User Agreement If not filing electronically, check this box when you have contacted Protection Plus direction.	ser effect as a ► QuickZoom	
	866-942-8348 and enrolled your client in Audit Assistance & Identity Theft Restoration.		
Enro selec	gistered? If your firm to offer Audit Assistance & ID Theft Restoration by opening the help menu acting the Options Setup Wizard and proceeding to the Client Benefit Suite to select Prot Assistance.		
X Use	Selection: a Form 1040 even if taxpayer qualifies to use Form 1040A or 1040EZ be Form 1040A even if taxpayer qualifies to use Form 1040EZ		Always use Form 1040 (will be programmed as the default)
Che Che QuickZoor	Expenses: eck if Taxpayer has qualified education expenses eck if Spouse has qualified education expenses m to the Taxpayer Student Information Worksheet to enter education expenses m to the Spouse Student Information Worksheet to enter education expenses Deduction/Itemized Deductions:		Usually accompanied by a Form 1098-T; see Voluntee Manual – Postsecondary Education Expenses and Credits, page 204, for more information
■ Ma	mize even if itemized deductions are less than standard deduction rried filing separately and spouse itemizes deductions e standard deduction even if less than itemized deductions	Only mark the	
Eitl	Professionals: her taxpayer or spouse qualifies for special passive activity rule for taxpayers in real operty business (see Help)		
Dependen Yes No	t of Someone Else:	If yo	vur dient er dient's
	Annual Property of the Control of th	spou	our client or client's use can be claimed as ependent on another
	Can spouse be claimed as dependent of another person (such as parent)? If yes, was spouse claimed as dependent on that person's return?	pers	, con's return, be sure to plete this section
Presidenti	al Election Campaign Fund:		
Yes No		the taxpayer's	e boxes does not change refund amount; for tion visit www.fec.qov

FIW Part X – Additional Federal Return Information, Cont.

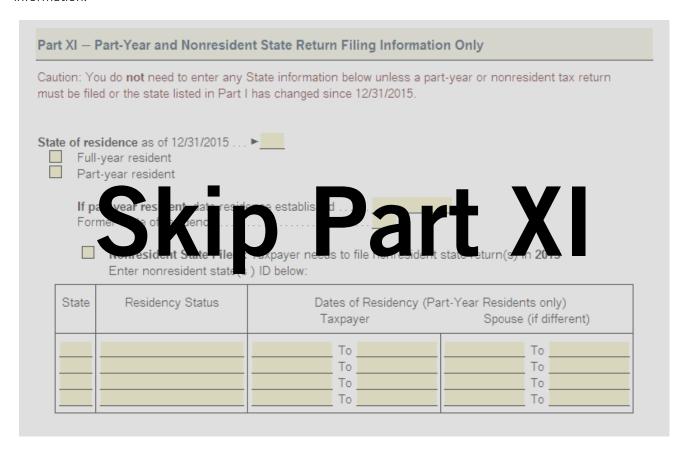
Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions (Form 8880): Yes No Is taxpayer a full-time student? Is spouse a full-time student?	See Volunteer Manual – Credits: Retirement Savings Contribution Credit for more information
American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Credit, and Tuition and Fees Deductives No	tion (Form 8863 and 8917)
For 2018, was the taxpayer (or spouse if married) a nonresident alien f	for any part of the year,
and did not elect to be treated as a resident alien?	See below for definition; See
Credit for the Elderly or Disabled (Schedule R):	Volunteer Manual – Credits:
Yes No	Credit for the Elderly or Disablea
Is taxpayer retired on total and permanent disability?	to learn more about the credit
Is spouse retired on total and permanent disability?	
	L6 is <u>out of scope</u> ; see
File Form 1116 even if taypayer not required to file Form 1116 Volunteel	r Manual – Credits:
Resident country	ax Credit to learn more
Excludable Income from Am. Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the N. Mariana Isl Excludable income of bona fide residents of American Samoa, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	
Print 'DUAL-STATUS RETURN' on Form 1040	
IRS Disaster Tax Relief: The taxpayer was affected by a natural disaster in 2018. If the taxpayer is entitled to a filing extension or other disaster relief provision as declar enter the appropriate information (see Help)	
Partners in a Registered Domestic Partnership or Civil Union:	Note: 16 to 1900 Sile NATI
Taxpayer is in a Registered Domestic Partnership or civil union.	Note: If taxpayers file MFJ
Also, check one of the following (see Help):	on the federal return, then
This return is taxpayer's individual federal return to be filed with the IRS This is taxpayer's joint return for filing joint state return only	the state of IL will recognize the same status.

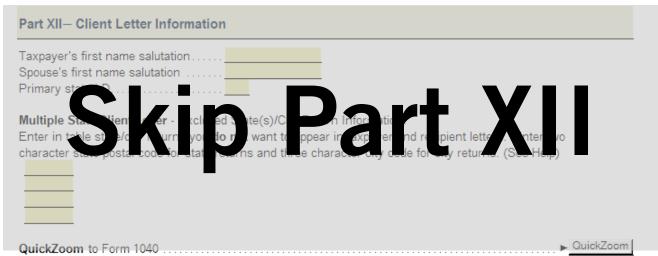


Total and permanent disability means that the taxpayer has an illness lasting more than 12 months preventing gainful employment for a taxpayer.

FIW Parts XI, XII: SKIP THESE PARTS

Volunteers should not make any changes to these parts, as ProSeries automatically populates relevant information.





Identity Verification Worksheet

As part of enhanced security updates, you must now complete an Identity Verification Worksheet in ProSeries to document how you verified a taxpayer's and/or spouse's identity. This worksheet will populate during the checking process once e-file has been selected for the client.

Select "does not have driver's license or state id", the information is not required in the State of Illinois and saves time.

Name (a) Chaum an D	6.000		Social Society, Nimphon
Name(s) Shown on R SMITH JUSTI	KUM K MARTHA WA	SHINGTON	Social Security Number ***-**-1234
Driver's License	or State Id Informa	ition	.1.
ages in his still believe and the second	Supplied the control of the control of the control of the control	 Annual State of the second of State State and State of State of Control of State of State	ate id detail information below or ver's license or state id information is
	dentification numberry delays in tax retu		ify taxpayer identity which can prevent
All identity state retur		ation should be entered here	and will automatically flow to the
SELECTION OF SELEC		er's license or state id	24
X Taxpayer X Spouse	Note:	Alabama does not allow this	option
And the second second	lid not provide drive	er's license or state id informa	tion
Taxpayer Spouse	8		ork and Ohio do not allow this option
	not available for retu	100	nich appears in green) is correct
Driver's License De	tail		
Taxpayer:		Spouse:	

Income: Overview

The following are examples of common income document types you will see at Ladder Up tax sites. Use "Common Forms" to the left of the screen or the "Forms" button on the tool bar in order to complete the appropriate worksheet, form, or schedule within ProSeries.

Client's Form	Description	Form 1040 Line #	In ProSeries, Complete:	See Page #
W-2	Wages and Salaries	1	W-2 Worksheet	86
1099-INT	Interest	2a 2b	Interest Income Worksheet on Schedule B	91
1099-DIV	Dividends	3a 3b	Dividend Income worksheet on Schedule B	93
1099-MISC	Box 7: Miscellaneous Income, Box 2: Royalties or Box 3: Prizes, Awards, Jury Duty	Sched 1, line 12 Sched 1, line 21	1099-MISC Worksheet and Schedule C (Expenses > \$25,000 are <u>out-of-scope</u>)	97
1099-K	Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions	Sched 1, line 12	Form 1099-K worksheet	104
1099-В	Capital Gain (or loss)	Sched 1, line 13	Schedule D "Capital Gains and Losses Condensed Entry Table" where basis is not reported to the IRS or line 1a (short-term) or 8- a (long-term) where basis is reported.	110
1099-R	Distribution from IRAs or Distribution from Retirement Plans	4a 4b	1099-R Worksheet (Distribution codes 5, 6, 8, 9, A, E, J, K, N, P, R, T, U and W are all <u>out-of-scope</u>)	121
1099-G	Unemployment Compensation or Taxable State Tax Refund	Sched 1, line 19 Sched 1, line 10	1099-G Worksheet	127
SSA-1099	Social Security Benefits	5b	Social Security Benefits Worksheet	132
RRB-1099	Railroad Retirement Benefits	5b	Social Security Benefits Worksheet <u>and</u> 1099-R Worksheet	132
W-2G	Certain Gambling Winnings	Schedule 1, line 21	Form W-2G Worksheet	140
1099-C	Cancellation of Debt	Schedule 1, line 21	1099-C Worksheet	143
1098-T	Tuition Statement (Scholarships & Grants)	1 With SCH annotation	Student Information Worksheet <u>and</u> 1098-T Worksheet	215
1098-E	Student Loan Interest	Schedule 1, line 33	1098-E Student Loan Interest Deduction Worksheet	161

Taxpayers may be missing documents showing their income for a few reasons:

- Missing W-2: The taxpayer has not received a W-2 from his employer. If this is the case, we cannot file their taxes until they return with all documents for the tax year.
- Alimony/Maintenance: The taxpayer or spouse receives alimony or separate maintenance payments made under a court order. See *Volunteer Manual Income: Alimony Payments Received* for more information. Note that payments made under an agreement executed before 1985 are <u>out of scope</u> of the program.
- Cash Income: The taxpayer was paid in cash. See Volunteer Manual Income: Cash Income for steps to report cash income.

All income is taxable unless it is specifically excluded by law. The Income section of Form 1040 lists possible income sources, and includes both earned and unearned income. See *Volunteer Manual – Credits: EITC* for information about what qualifies as earned income.

Taxable Income

Taxable income is any income that is subject to tax. It must be reported on a tax return, unless the amount is so small that the individual is not required to file a return. Many types of taxable income are reported on a W-2 or 1099 form.

Nontaxable Income

Nontaxable income is income that is exempt from tax. If a return must be filed, some types of nontaxable income will be shown on the return but will not be added into the amount of income subject to tax.



Do not confuse taxable vs. nontaxable income with earned vs. unearned income.

Taxable Income – continued

- Wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions
- Alimony
- Annuities
- Awards
- Back pay
- Breach of contract
- Business income/Selfemployment
- Compensation for personal services
- Debts forgiven¹
- Director's fees
- Disability benefits (employer-funded)
- Discounts
- Dividends
- Employee awards
- Employee bonuses
- Estate and trust income
- Farm income
- Fees
- Gains from sale of property or securities

- Gambling winnings
- Hobby income
- Interest
- Interest on life insurance dividends
- IRA distributions
- Jury duty fees
- Military pay (not exempt from taxation)
- Military pension
- Non-employee compensation
- Notary fees
- Partnership, Estate, and S-Corporation (Schedule K-1s, Taxpayer's share)
- Pensions
- Prizes
- Punitive damage
- Railroad retirement Tier I (portion may be taxable)
- Railroad retirement Tier II

- Recovery of prior-year deduction² (medical, property taxes, etc.)
- Refund of state taxes²
- Rents (gross rent)
- Rewards
- Royalties
- Severance pay
- Self-employment
- Social Security benefits portion may be taxable- (See page 132)
- Supplemental unemployment benefits
- Taxable scholarships and grants
- Tips and gratuities
- Unemployment compensation
- Worldwide income

Footnotes:

- 1. If the taxpayer received a Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, in relation to his main home, it can be nontaxable
- 2. If itemized in year paid and taxes were reduced because of deduction

Taxable vs. Nontaxable Income, Cont.

Nontaxable Income

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Child support
- Damages for physical injury (other than punitive)
- Death payments
- Dividends on life insurance
- Federal Employees' Compensation Act payments
- Federal income tax refunds
- Gifts
- Inheritance³ or bequests
- Insurance proceeds:
 Accident, Casualty, Health,
 Life

- Interest on tax-free securities
- Interest in EE/I bond redeemed for qualified higher education expenses
- Meals and lodging for the convenience of employer
- Payments to the beneficiary of a deceased employee
- Relocation payments
- Payments or payments in lieu of worker's compensation
- Rental allowance of clergyman
- Sickness and injury payments
- Social Security benefits portion may be nontaxable
 - see page 132

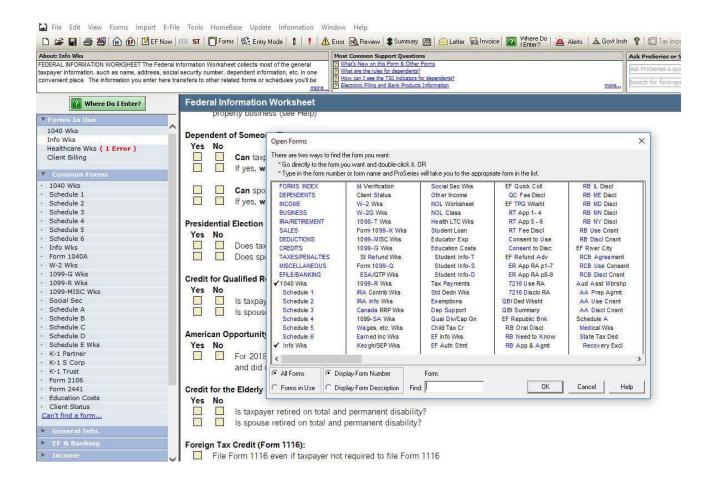
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Veterans' benefits
- Welfare payments (including TANF) and food stamps
- Worker's compensation and similar payments

Footnotes:

- 3. If the taxpayer received a Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, in relation to their main home, it can be nontaxable
- 4. If itemized in year paid and taxes were reduced because of deduction.
- 5. An inheritance is not reported on the income tax return, but a distribution from an inherited pension or annuity is subject to the same tax as the original owner would have had to pay.

Enter Income in ProSeries

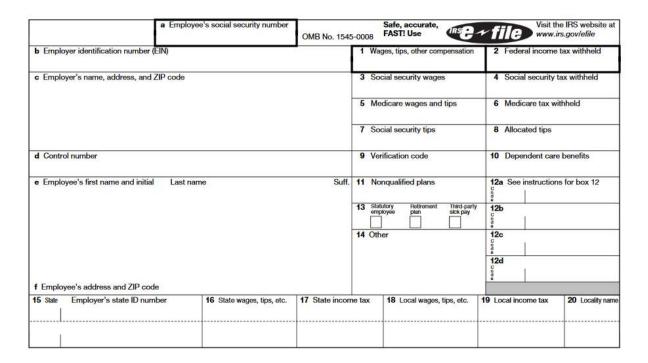
Income can generally be entered using the Forms Bar on the left or by using the Forms button on the tool bar.





Be sure to reference *Volunteer Manual – Site Operations: Out of Scope Situations* to determine if the taxpayer has any sources of income that are out of scope of the program.

Form W-2: Wage and Tax Statement



Form W-2 reports an employee's earned income for the year.

Box 1, Wages, tips, other compensation, shows the amount of payments received in cash, goods and services, bonuses, supplemental unemployment benefits, awards, and taxable employee benefits. The amount in Box 1 is included on Form 1040, line 1.

Box 2, Federal income tax withheld, shows the amount of federal tax already paid through paycheck withholdings. This amount must be recorded accurately to calculate the correct amount the taxpayer will be refunded or will owe the IRS. This amount is included on Form 1040, line 16.

Box 9, verification code, should be entered if filing electronically.

Box 17, State income tax, shows the amount of state tax already paid through paycheck

withholdings. This amount must be recorded accurately to calculate the correct amount the taxpayer will be refunded or will owe the Illinois Department of Revenue. The amount in Box 17 is included on Form IL-1040, line 26.

Employers should issue Form W-2 to every employee by January 31 and send a copy to the Social Security Administration. Employees may need to pick up Form W-2 from their employer, or obtain it electronically.

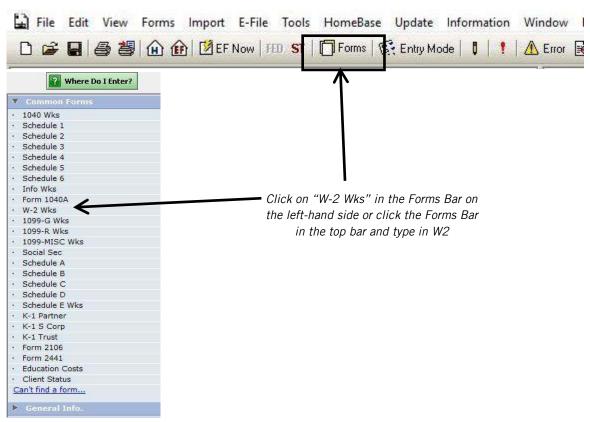
Many taxpayers have more than one W-2 form. All forms for the taxpayer (and spouse) must be included on the tax return.



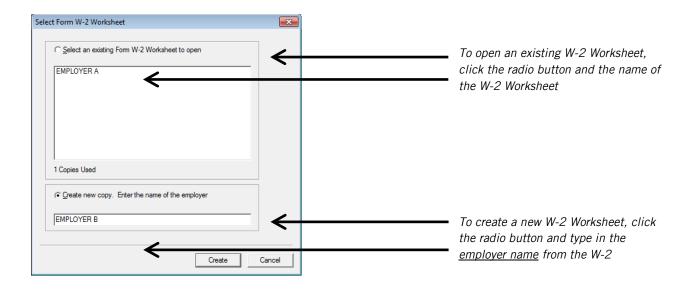
Note that W-2s can come in a variety of Formats, and this is only one example. No matter the layout, the box numbers are always treated the same.

W-2 Worksheet

In ProSeries, W-2 income information is entered using a W-2 Worksheet. A separate W-2 Worksheet must be created for each W-2 the taxpayer and spouse have. To start or edit a W-2 worksheet use the Forms Bar.



This will bring up the "Select Form W-2 Worksheet" dialog box, as shown below:



See the next page for details about filling out a W-2 Worksheet.

The W-2 Worksheet in ProSeries must be an exact copy (box for box) of the original W-2 given to you by the client.

	10		W-2 Worksheet p for your records	T		
Name as show	n on return				curity Number 6-5213	Fill in employer
Couick? Spouse Autom Caution: Bo Caution: Bo Mages, tip 3 Social sector Medicare 7 Social sector 8 Social sector 9 Social sector 9 Social sector 1 Social sector	Employer EIN Employer Nan Nan Street Address or P City Foreign Country	P. O. Box es 3 through 6 are erred compensate	Do not trans ad line 16. ion will change lines 3 t 2 Federal tax w 4 Social sec ta 6 Medicare tax 8 Allocated tips	fer this W-2 to next	ally.	Caution! Esure to do check that amounts if the W-2 a you fill in 1 and 2
Acti	eign source income ove duty military pay		sion on Form 2555 ombat pay in income fo	r EICQ	uickZoom	
Box 12 Code ct codes the down	Box 12 Amount	M: Enter an P: Double o R: Enter M: W: Enter H:	nount attributable to RR nount attributable to RR click to link to Form 390 SA contribution for Ta SI SA contribution for Ta	TA Tier 2 tax 3, line 4 ixpayer ixpayer ixpayer ixpayer ixpayer		
ct codes the	Amount	A: Enter and M: Enter and P: Double of R: Enter M: W: Enter H:	nount attributable to RR nount attributable to RR click to link to Form 390 SA contribution for Ta SI SA contribution for Ta	TA Tier 2 tax 3, line 4 sxpayer sxpayer sxpayer sxpayer souse local government		Don't fo.

Keep in mind:

- Every lettered or numbered box with a value on the W-2 should be entered onto the ProSeries W-2 Worksheet
- The most commonly used fields are near the top of the W-2 Worksheet.
- Box 13 information from the W-2 is entered in one of three places, depending on the information:
 - Retirement plan is just *above* Box 12. This is the most commonly checked box.
 - Statutory employee is halfway down the worksheet, in Part I.
 - Third-party sick pay is near the bottom of the worksheet, in Part VI.
- The Employer's State ID number is sometimes different from the federal EIN be sure to enter the correct one. If the Employer's State ID number is blank, use the federal EIN.
- Create a separate W-2 Worksheet for each W-2 that the taxpayer and spouse have.

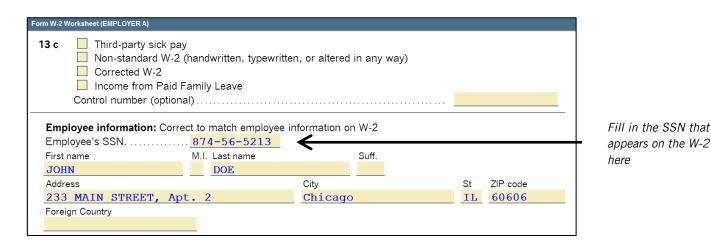
Note: Use Form 4137 to figure the Social Security and Medicare tax owed on tips that the client did not report to his employer, including any allocated tips shown on Form (s) W-2 that he must report as income. He must also report the income on Form 1040, line 7. By filing this form, his Social Security and Medicare tips will be credited to his Social Security record.

ITIN Clients

A client with an ITIN may have a W-2 showing a Social Security number. In that instance, scroll down to the bottom of the W-2 Worksheet and enter the SSN that you see on the paper W-2. The client's ITIN is his true taxpayer ID number, but the W-2 Worksheet must be changed to reflect exactly what appears on the paper W-2 or else the return will be rejected when e-filed. If the paper W-2 shows a truncated SSN, ask the taxpayer what the full number is.

You can also utilize this portion of the W-2 Worksheet to correct any other employee information including name and address.

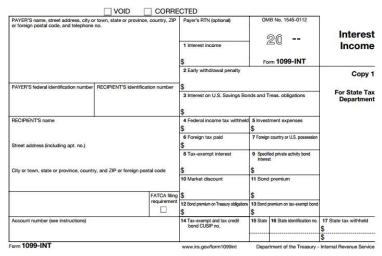
For more information on ITIN numbers set to expire this year, see Volunteer Manual - What's New, page 5.



Scholarship and Fellowship Payments

If the taxpayer received a Form W-2 for a scholarship or fellowship, include the information on a new W-2 Worksheet as you would any other W-2. Scholarships and fellowships may be fully or partially taxable. See the *Volunteer Manual – Credits: Postsecondary Education Expenses* section starting on page 205 for more information about tuition, grants and scholarships, including Form 1098-T amounts.

Form 1099-INT: Interest Income



Interest income is typically reported to the taxpayer on Form 1099-INT.

Box 1 shows taxable **interest income** and is reported on Form 1040, line 2b.

Box 2 shows any early withdrawal penalty amount and is an adjustment to income reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1, line 30. Some taxpayers withdraw funds from a time deposit before the maturity date of the account and, therefore, incur an interest penalty. See *Volunteer Manual – Adjustments to Income: Penalty on Early Withdrawal* for information about the adjustment to income.

Box 3 shows interest on United States savings bond and Treasury obligations. Be sure to ask the taxpayer about this interest income.

If a taxpayer received less than \$10 in interest income from an individual payer in the tax year, the payer may choose not to issue a form 1099-INT. However, the taxpayer must still report all interest income on the tax return.

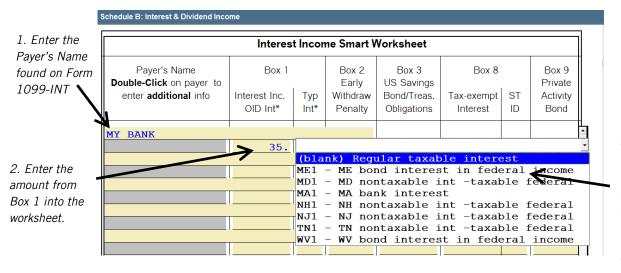
Some interest is not taxable; examples include state and local bonds, qualified Series EE and Series I savings bonds used to pay higher education expenses, and interest earned on a traditional IRA.

In ProSeries, 1099-INT information is entered using the Interest Income Smart Worksheet on Schedule B.

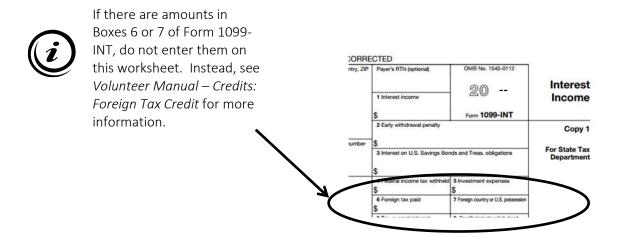


Interest Income Smart Worksheet

Be sure to use Part I – Interest and not Part II – Ordinary Dividends on Schedule B. Information from <u>multiple</u> 1099-INT forms is entered directly into this Smart Worksheet.

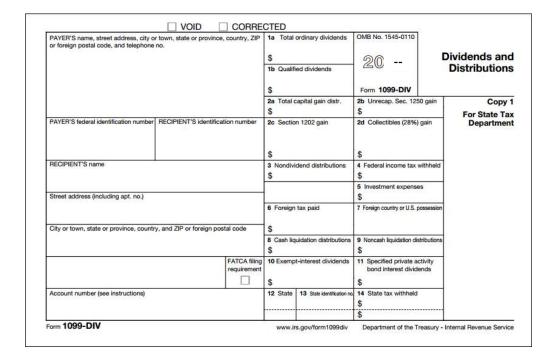


3. Select an Interest Type from the dropdown menu most of the time, this will be blank for regular taxable interest



If the total interest received is under \$1,500, the total is simply transferred and reported on lines 2a and 2b of Form 1040. However, if total interest received is greater than \$1,500, ProSeries will generate Schedule B to be filed with the return. If this occurs, be sure to address all errors that may appear on Schedule B, such as questions about Foreign Accounts and Trusts.

Form 1099-DIV: Dividends and Distributions



Dividends and distributions are reported to the taxpayer on Form 1099-DIV.

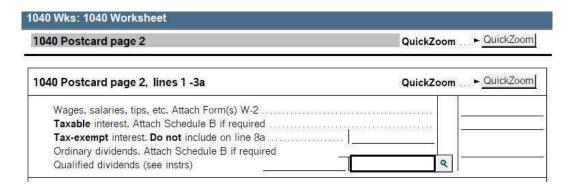
Box 1a shows the **total ordinary dividends** amount and is reported on Form 1040, line 3b. Ordinary dividends are corporate distributions paid in cash. They come from a corporation's net earnings and profits.

Box 1b shows the **qualified dividends** amount and is reported on Form 1040, line 3a. Qualified dividends are eligible for a lower tax rate than other ordinary income.

Box 2a shows the total capital gains distributions amount and is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 13. These are distributions paid to shareholders out of profitable investment sales from the company's portfolio, and are not a result of the taxpayer's sale of shares.

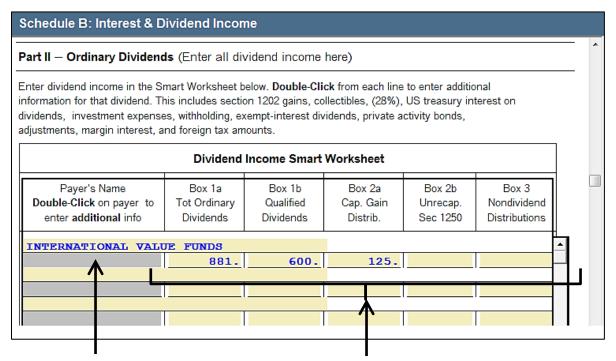
Boxes 2b through 2d involve advanced topics regarding capital gains and Schedule D.

In ProSeries, 1099-DIV information is entered using the Dividend Income Smart Worksheet. You can open it by clicking Schedule B in the Forms Bar on the left-hand side of the screen, or through the 1040 Postcard page 2.



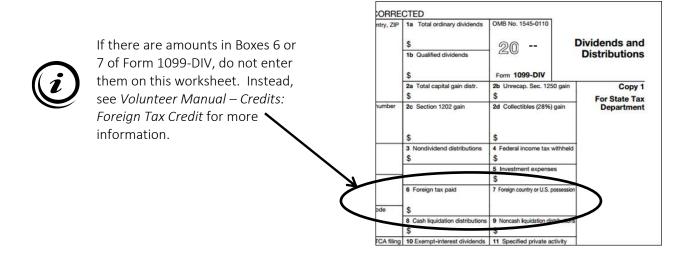
Dividend Income Smart Worksheet

Be sure to use Part II – Ordinary Dividends and not Part I - Interest on Schedule B. Information from <u>multiple</u> 1099-DIV forms is entered directly into this Smart Worksheet.



Enter the Payer's Name found on Form 1099-DIV

Enter the amounts from Box 1a, 1b, 2a and 3 into the corresponding boxes on the worksheet



If the total dividend income received is under \$1,500, the total is simply transferred and reported on lines 3a and 3b of Form 1040. However, if total dividend income received is greater than \$1,500, ProSeries will generate Schedule B to be filed with the return. If this occurs, be sure to address all errors which may appear on Schedule B, such as questions about Foreign Accounts and Trusts.

Cash Income

Cash income is income received as self-employment or in the form of cash from services. Income is considered self-employment if the taxpayer had a trade or business with a mission to make a profit.

Reporting Requirement

All taxpayers are required to report all income from cash, services, and property unless a specific law states otherwise. This includes cash earned from side jobs, barter exchanges of goods and services, awards, and gambling proceeds. Income must be reported even if the taxpayer did not receive a 1099-MISC.

There is no minimum amount that a taxpayer may exclude from gross income. It is a common taxpayer misconception that if a taxpayer did not receive a 1099-MISC or did not earn more than \$600, the income does not need to be reported.



State Agency Payments for Child Care

Payments from state agencies to family caregivers who care for children are taxable and may be found on Form 1099-MISC in either box 7 or box 3. If family caregivers are **not conducting a business** of caring for children, this income is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 21 (other income). If the family caregivers are conducting a business of caring for children, this income is reported on Schedule C-EZ/C. State agencies may not know if the family caregiver(s) are operating a business and may prefer to report the payments on Form 1099-MISC, box 7.

Where to Report

Income reported in box 7 of the 1099-MISC is considered non-employee compensation. After being entered in the 1099-MISC worksheet it is reported on Schedule C, line 1. For more information, see *Volunteer Manual – Income: Form 1099-MISC* and *Volunteer Manual – Income: Schedule C.*

Other income is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 21. Other income is subject to income tax.

In general, the following are <u>out-of-scope</u>:

- Had a business with expenses of over \$25,000
- Used an accounting method other than cash
- Had inventory or cast of goods sold at any time during the year
- Had employees or contract labor
- Had a net loss from this business.
- Had vehicle leases of over 30 days
- Actual auto expenses (including if used actual expenses for same car in a prior year)

- Received any credit card or similar payments that included amounts that are not includable in income
- Is required to file Form 4562, Depreciation and Amortization
- Has expenses for business use of his home
- Has prior-year unallowed passive activity losses from his business
- Hobby or not-for-profit activities
- Income from controlled substances (such as marijuana)
- Needs to file any type of Form 1099

Business Expenses In Scope for VITA:

- Advertising
- Car and Truck Expenses (actual expenses are <u>out-of-scope</u>, see a full list on page 107)
- Commission and Fees (\$600 or more is <u>out-of-scope</u> if Form 1099 is required)
- Insurance (for example, professional liability)
- Other Interest (operating loans not mortgage interest)
- Utilities

- Legal and Professional Services
- Office Expense
- Rent or Lease (vehicle leases of more than 30 days are <u>out-of-scope</u>)
- Repairs and Maintenance (capital property is <u>out-of-scope</u>)
- Supplies
- Taxes and Licenses
- Travel and Meals

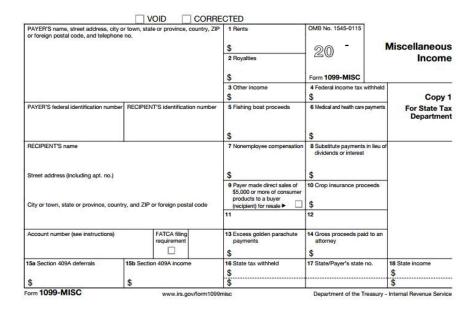
Supporting Documents for Cash Income – Recordkeeping

Supporting documents of gross receipts must be kept by the taxpayer. Examples include:

- Cash register receipts
- Bank statement and deposit slips
- Receipt books
- Invoices

- Credit card charge slips
- Forms 1099-MISC
- Any format the taxpayer uses to keep a consistent record of business receipts

Form 1099-MISC: Miscellaneous Income



Taxpayers with earnings reported on Form 1099-MISC, Box 7, are considered to be self-employed or independent contractors. These amounts are reported on Schedule C-EZ or Schedule C^1 .

Box 3 shows payment amounts from various sources such as the beneficiary of a deceased employee, prizes, awards, or taxable damages.

Box 4 shows any backup withholding. This amount is reported as federal income tax withheld.

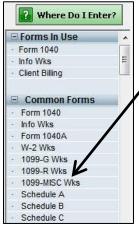
Box 7 shows nonemployee compensation. If earnings are reported in this box, the taxpayer is generally considered to be **self-employed** or an independent contractor (although state caregiver payments aren't always). These amounts are reported on Schedule C-EZ or **Schedule C**.² Read below for further information about self-employment income.

² Net losses and profits are reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 12. Clients did not necessarily "have a business," but simply performed services in which it was determined that an employer-employee relationship did not exist. Taxes were not taken out of the amount recorded on the 1099-MISC and the client will owe taxes on that amount.

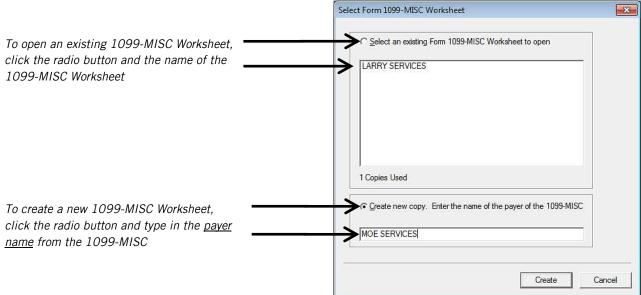
Clients may need to complete Schedule SE, Self-Employment Tax, and pay self-employment tax on their net earnings from self-employment if the net earnings from self-employment were \$400 or more. This is the method by which self-employed persons, or those considered self-employed, pay into the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. ProSeries automatically calculates self-employment tax when necessary.

¹Note: Ladder Up volunteers should always use Schedule C in ProSeries.

1099-MISC Worksheet



In ProSeries, 1099-MISC information is entered using a 1099-MISC Worksheet. As with the W-2 Worksheet, a separate 1099-MISC Worksheet must be created for each 1099-MISC that the taxpayer and spouse have. Use the Forms Bar on the left to create a new or edit an existing 1099-MISC Worksheet.



Continue to the next page for details about filling out a 1099-MISC Worksheet and Schedule C, if necessary.

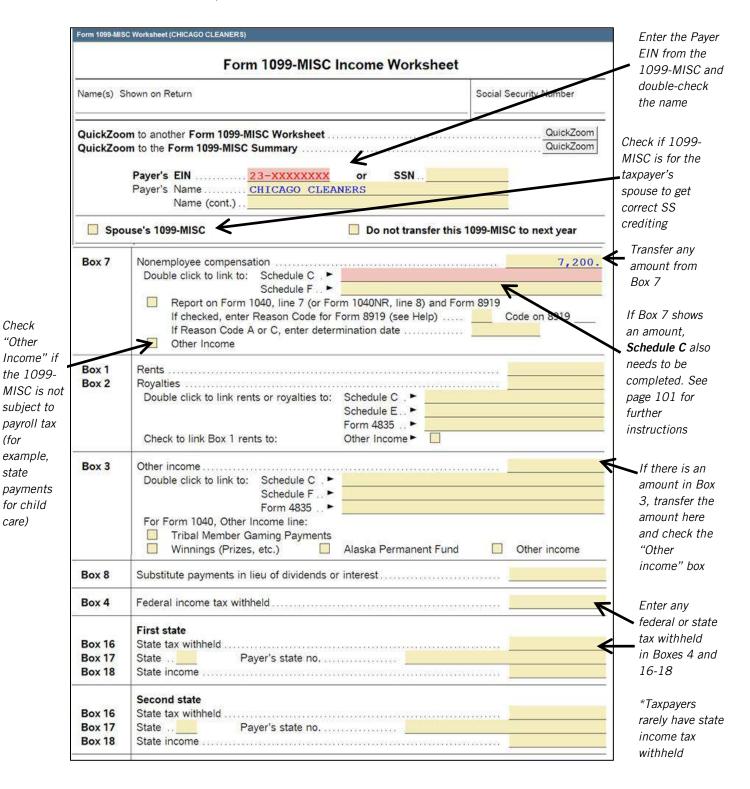
1099-MISC Worksheet, Cont.

Check

(for

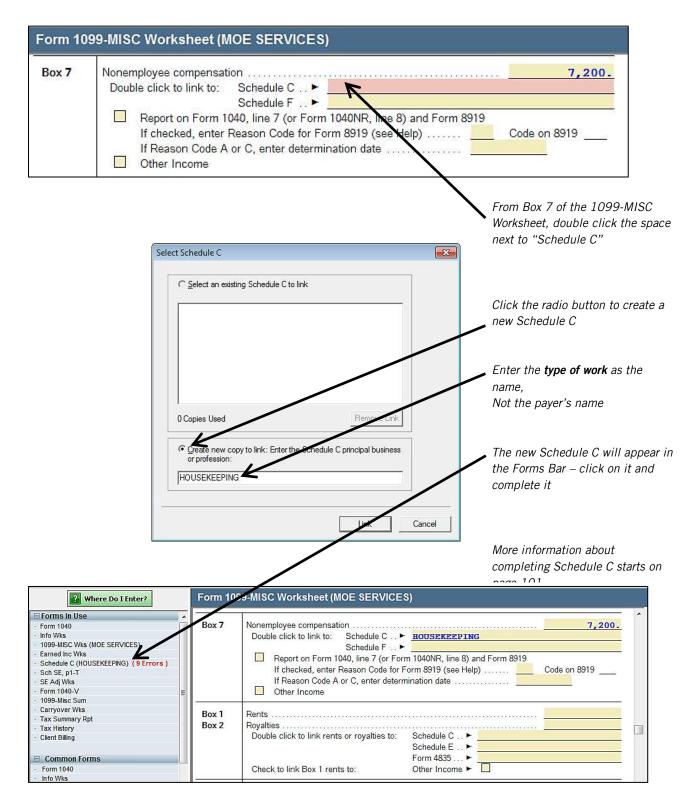
state

care)



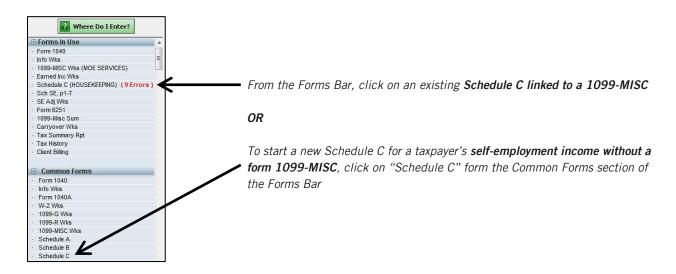
Form 1099-MISC and Schedule C

When a taxpayer receives a Form 1099-MISC showing nonemployee compensation in Box 7, you will need to complete a Schedule C along with the 1099-MISC Worksheet. In order to create and link a Schedule C, complete the following:

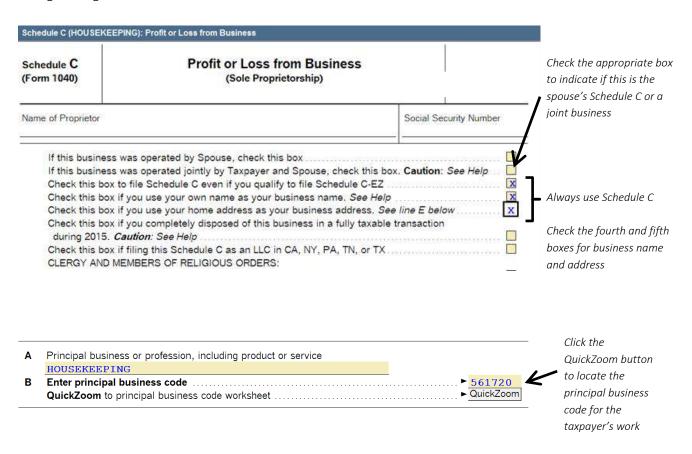


Schedule C: Profit or Loss from Business

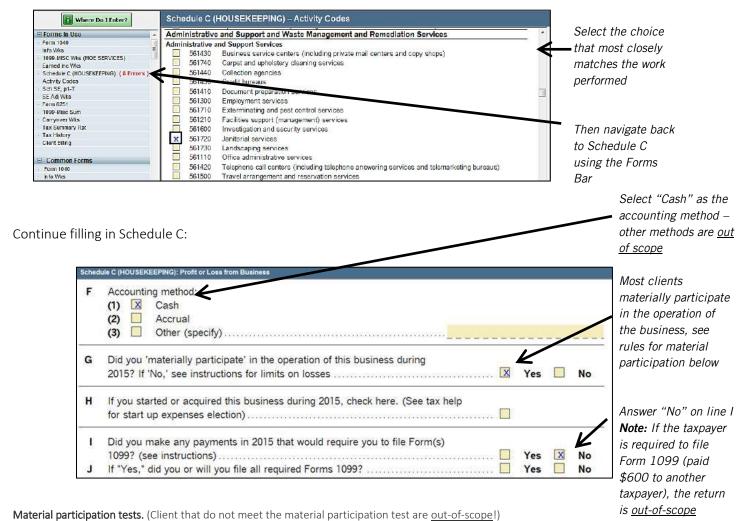
Schedule C is used to report income from a business or profession operated as a sole proprietor or independent contractor. Taxpayers with amounts in Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC need to complete Schedule C in order to report cash income and calculate possible self-employment taxes. Back Real Estate Taxes on primary residence paid in current year cannot be deducted except on Schedule C in the amount related to the business use of the property. To start a new or complete an existing Schedule C in ProSeries:



Then begin filling out Schedule C:



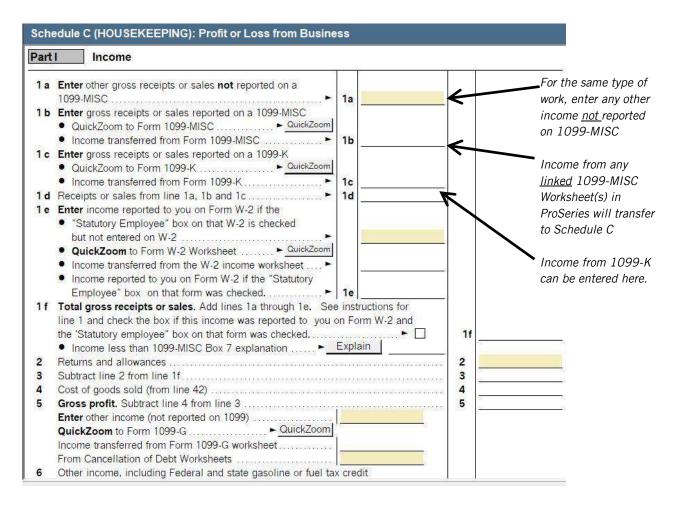
Check the box for the appropriate principal business code:



You materially participated in a trade or business activity for a tax year if you satisfy any of the following tests:

- 1. You participated in the activity for more than 500 hours.
- 2. Your participation was substantially all the participation in the activity of all individuals for the tax year, including the participation of individuals who didn't own any interest in the activity.
- 3. You participated in the activity for more than 100 hours during the tax year, and you participated at least as much as any other individual (including individuals who didn't own any interest in the activity) for the year.
- 4. The activity is a significant participation activity, and you participated in all significant participation activities for more than 500 hours. A significant participation activity is any trade or business activity in which you participated for more than 100 hours during the year and in which you didn't materially participate under any of the material participation tests, other than this test.
- 5. You materially participated in the activity (other than by meeting this fifth test) for any 5 (whether or not consecutive) of the 10 immediately preceding tax years.
- 6. The activity is a personal service activity in which you materially participated for any 3 (whether or not consecutive) preceding tax years. An activity is a personal service activity if it involves the performance of personal services in the fields of health (including veterinary services), law, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, or any other trade or business in which capital isn't a material income-producing factor.
- 7. Based on all the facts and circumstances, you participated in the activity on a regular, continuous, and substantial basis during the year.
 - You didn't materially participate in the activity under test (7) if you participated in the activity for 100 hours or less during the year. Your participation in managing the activity doesn't count in determining whether you materially participated under this test if:
 - Any person other than you received compensation for managing the activity, or
 - Any individual spent more hours during the tax year managing the activity than you did (regardless of whether the individual was compensated for the management services).

Make sure all contractor or business income for the same type of work is included.



1099-K: Merchant Card and Third Party Payments

Form 1099-K shows income that was received by clients from a payment settlement entity (PSE), a third-party company that handles transactions from debit cards, credit cards, and even PayPal. If a client had 200 or more transactions with a PSE that totaled \$20,000 or more, then he will receive a Form 1099-K. This type of income is in scope the business is itself is in scope. Form 1099-K data is entered in the 1099-K worksheet (the best way to get there is to use the QuickZoom button for line 1c of Schedule C)



Schedule C Expenses

Next, enter any work-related expenses the taxpayer has to report. A business expense must be both ordinary and necessary to be a deductible expense. An ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted in the taxpayer's industry. A necessary expense is one that is helpful and appropriate for the taxpayer's trade or business.



Ladder Up clients can have a maximum of \$25,000 in expenses and be eligible for service. The taxpayer must be able to provide documentation for all expenses in the event of an IRS audit. The taxpayer *cannot* elect to ignore expenses to meet the eligibility limit.

Examples of these expenses include the following:

- Advertising
- Car and truck expenses¹
- Commissions and fees
- Insurance
- Other interest
- Legal and professional services and fees
- Office expenses

- Rent or lease expenses
- Repairs and maintenance
- Supplies
- Taxes and licenses
- Travel
- 50% of business meals and entertainment (ProSeries software will automatically calculate)²
- Utilities (including telephone)

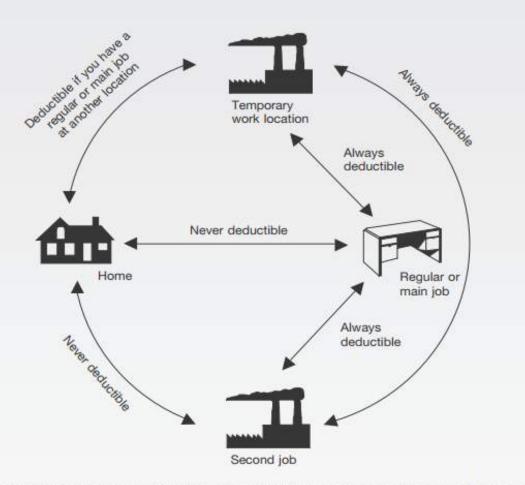
¹ <u>Business mileage</u>: Taxpayers may not include miles they commute between home and work, or miles driven for meals. Taxpayers may add only parking, tolls or car washes. "Business miles" includes travel between home and a temporary workplace when the taxpayer has one or more regular places of work. If the taxpayer has no regular place of employment, only the travel from one temporary place to another is counted. See graphic on next page. Taxpayers electing to use actual expenses instead of business mileage are out of scope, including taxpayers who used actual expenses for the same vehicle in a prior year.

² Only meals while traveling away from home for business or meals that are business-related entertainment are deductible.



Deductible Transportation Expenses

Most employees and self-employed persons can use this chart. (Don't use this chart if your home is your principal place of business.)



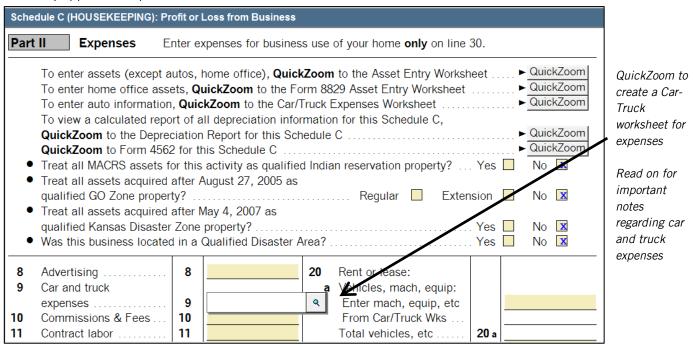
Home: The place where you reside. Transportation expenses between your home and your main or regular place of work are personal commuting expenses.

Regular or main job: Your principal place of business. If you have more than one job, you must determine which one is your regular or main job. Consider the time you spend at each, the activity you have at each, and the income you earn at each.

Temporary work location: A place where your work assignment is realistically expected to last (and does in fact last) one year or less. Unless you have a regular place of business, you can only deduct your transportation expenses to a temporary work location outside your metropolitan area.

Second job: If you regularly work at two or more places in one day, whether or not for the same employer, you can deduct your transportation expenses of getting from one workplace to another. If you don't go directly from your first job to your second job, you can only deduct the transportation expenses of going directly from your first job to your second job. You can't deduct your transportation expenses between your home and a second job on a day off from your main job.

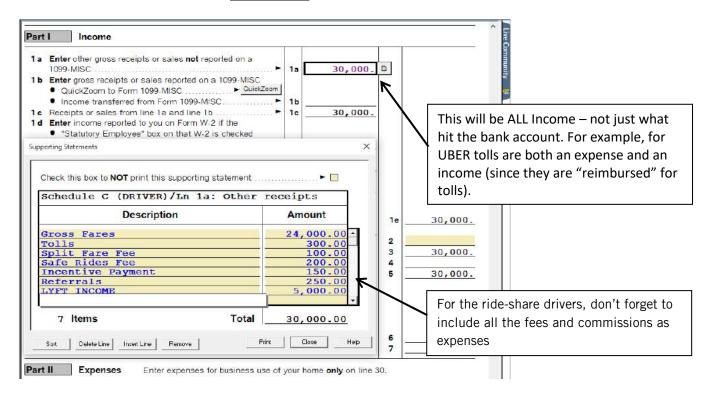
Enter any applicable expenses in Part II of Schedule C.



Special Note for Uber, Lyft, and Amazon Drivers

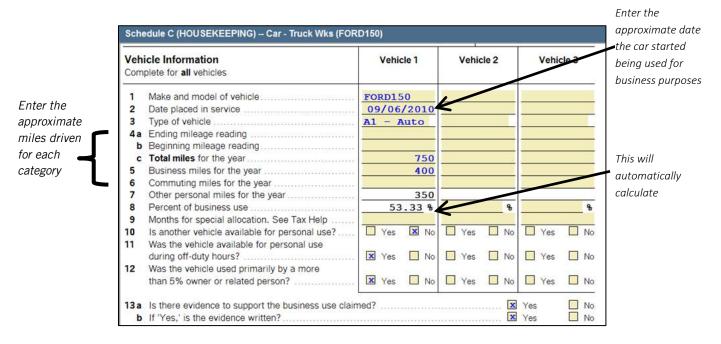
The tax summary which can be found within the Uber or Lyft App for drivers can be useful (but may not include all expenses). Encourage taxpayers to keep their own records outside of the app.

For drivers with car loans on their vehicles: If the loan includes costs for a warranty on the purchase of the vehicle, the warranty coverage on an asset is NOT a deductible asset (only the loan amount and interest). Warranties are typically considered out-of-scope.



Car and Truck Expenses

If the taxpayer used their vehicle for work, then click on the box for Line 9 to create a Car-Truck Worksheet, which will allow you to enter details of the car or truck use. Title the Car-Truck Worksheet with the make and model of the car or truck used by the taxpayer and then talk with the taxpayer to answer the questions in the first part of the worksheet.





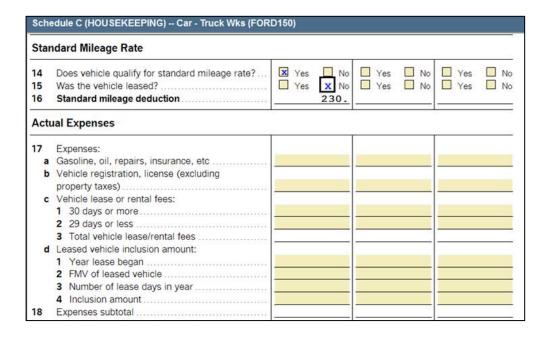
Be sure the taxpayer knows they will need to be able to substantiate these expenses in the event of an audit.

Car and Truck Expenses, Cont.

The taxpayer has a choice to make: They can either deduct their vehicle expenses using the standard mileage rate or they can deduct their actual expenses.

Note:

Returns deducting actual expenses for the current or any prior year are out-of-scope of the program.



Standard Mileage Rate

If the taxpayer uses the standard mileage rate for a year, they cannot deduct their actual car expenses for that year. The client **can add parking fees and tolls** to their standard mileage expense. The standard mileage rate for 2018 is 54.5 cents per mile for business miles driven. The business portion of auto loan interest (no principal) can also be included on line 16c of Schedule C.

Actual Car Expenses (Returns that deduct actual expenses for cars and trucks are <u>out of scope</u>.)

If the taxpayer does not use the standard mileage rate, he may be able to deduct his actual expenses, which include:

- Depreciation
- Insurance
- Licenses
- Garage rent

Gas

Parking fees

• Oil

- Registration fees
- Tolls

- Repairs
- Lease payments
- Tires

Schedule SE: Self-Employment Tax

Taxpayers need to complete Schedule SE for self-employment tax if net earnings exceed \$400. Self-employment tax only refers to the Social Security and Medicare taxes that would normally be taken out of an employee's paycheck by an employer. SE taxes apply regardless of age and whether or not the taxpayer is already receiving Social Security or Medicare benefits. For calendar year 2018, the self-employment tax is 15.3% (12.4% for Social Security and 2.9% for Medicare).

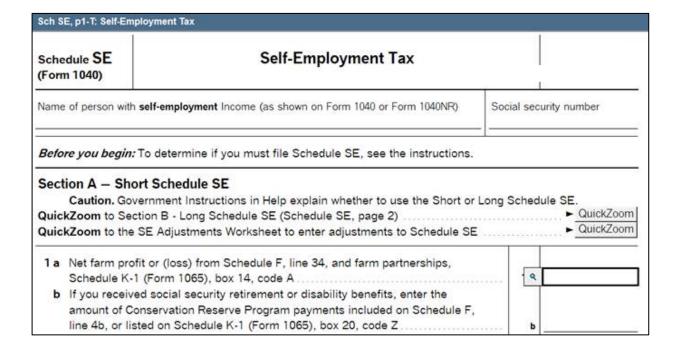
Quarterly Payments of SE Tax

To help avoid a balance due, plus potential penalty charges from the IRS, Form 1040-ES is used to figure estimated payments. The taxpayer will need to use amounts from the prior year's tax return in order to complete the form. More information about estimated taxes can be found in Publication 505.

The taxpayer can also use the Electronic Filing Tax Payment System (EFTPS) to make payments online.

Automatic Calculation

After you input profit and loss information into the Schedule C, ProSeries will automatically calculate the Self-Employment Tax that should be applied and populate Schedule SE. Schedule SE can be searched for by clicking the "Can't find a form" link in the Forms Bar. Open the form and confirm that it has automatically calculated.





The employer-equivalent portion of the taxpayer's self-employment tax can be subtracted from total income as an adjustment. See the Adjustments to Income section of this manual for more information.

Capital Gains and Losses

When a capital asset is sold, the difference between the amount it sold for and the cost of the asset, or "basis" is a capital gain or a capital loss. To report a capital gain or loss the taxpayer will need to know the basis or adjusted basis, the holding period, and the proceeds from the sale. These items are typically reported on Form 1099-B and furnished to the taxpayer.

Basis/Adjusted Basis

- The original cost of the asset
- Adjusted basis includes original cost plus any increases or decreases to that cost (such as commissions, fees, depreciation, deductible casualty losses, insurance reimbursements, major improvements)
- Brokers must report cost or other basis on Form 1099-B, unless the securities sold were noncovered securities
- Taxpayers must use codes to report if 1099-B was received, and whether or not it showed basis reported to the IRS
- If Form 1099-B does not include how much a taxpayer paid, then he must provide this information. If a taxpayer needs help determining the basis and does not have the original purchase documents (or other records showing date of purchase and cost), refer him or her to his stockbroker. If a taxpayer purchased the asset and cannot provide his basis in the property, the IRS will deem it to be zero. Refer the taxpayer to a professional tax preparer if he acquired stock by means other than a purchase (e.g., through inheritance, a gift or employee stock option plan) and does not know the basis. The determination of basis in these situations is beyond the scope of VITA.
- There are times when cost alone cannot be used as basis. In some cases, the fair market value (FMV) or adjusted basis is used.

Example:

Alice paid \$1,100 for 100 shares of ABC, Inc. stock, so the original basis per share was \$11 (\$1,100/100). Alice received 10 additional shares of ABC stock as a nontaxable stock dividend. Her \$1,100 basis must be spread over 110 shares (100 original shares plus the 10-share stock dividend).

If Alice's basis in the stock was \$1,100 for 100 shares, then her original basis per share was \$11 (\$1,100/100). So, the 10 additional shares means Alice's basis per share decreased to \$10 per share (\$1,100/110). If Alice sells her stock 18 months later for \$1,200, she would be taxed on her gain of \$100.

Holding Period

- Short-term property is held one year or less
- Long-term property is held more than one year (long-term capital gains are taxed at a lower rate than short-term gains)
- The holding period begins the day after the shares were purchased and includes the day the shares were sold. If investment assets are inherited, the capital gain or loss is treated as long-term.
- Brokers must report whether the gain or loss is short-term or long-term on Form 1099-B, unless the securities sold were non-covered securities. Form 1099-B reflects gross or net proceeds for a stock or mutual fund. Form 1099-B will also indicate the date the stock was sold.

Capital Losses

If the taxpayer's capital losses exceed his capital gains, the excess can be deducted on his tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if he is married filing separately. You may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use. If your total net capital loss is more than the yearly limit on capital loss deductions, you can carry over the unused part to the next year and treat it as if you incurred it in that next year.

Tax Return

Capital gains and losses are reported on Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses, and then transferred to Schedule 1 line 13 of Form 1040. In many cases the details of each transaction must be reported, and that is typically done on one or more forms 8949.

Form 1099-B: Proceeds From Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions

1099-B is prepared by stockbrokers and reports proceeds from transactions to the taxpayer and the IRS. Taxpayers must report all capital gains.

	VO	D CORRE	CIED			
PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.			Applicable check box on Form	Proceeds From Broker and Barter Exchange Transactions		
			1a Description of property	(Example 100 sh. XYZ Co.)		
			1b Date acquired	1c Date sold or disposed		
PAYER'S federal identification number RECIPIENT'S identification number			1d Proceeds \$	te Cost or other basis	Copy :	
			1f Accrued market discount \$	1g Wash sale loss disallowed \$	Department	
RECIPIENT'S name			2 Short-term gain or loss Long-term gain or loss Ordinary	3 If checked, basis reported to IRS		
Street address (including apt. no.) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Account number (see instructions)			4 Federal income tax withheld \$	5 If checked, noncovered security		
			6 Reported to IRS: Gross proceeds Net proceeds	7 If checked, loss is not allowed based on amount in 1d		
			Profit or (loss) realized in 2017 on closed contracts	9 Unrealized profit or (loss) on open contracts - 12/31/2016		
CUSIP number FATCA filing requirement			10 Unrealized profit or (loss) on open contracts—12/31/2017			
14 State name 15 State identifi	cation no 16 \$	State tax withheld	\$ 12 Check if proceeds from collectibles	\$ 13 Bartering \$		

Box 1a shows a description of the property such as the corporation's name and the number of shares of stock that were exchanged.

Box 2 shows if the gain or loss is short-term or long-term.

Box 1b shows the acquisition date of any securities sold.

Box 3 If checked, the basis in box 1e has been reported to the IRS and one of the check boxes in box 2 must be checked.

Box 1c shows the trade date of the sale or exchange.

Box 4 shows backup withholding if any.

Box 1d shows the proceeds from all dispositions of securities.

Box 5 If checked this is a non-covered security, which means that the broker is not required to complete boxes 1b, 1e, 1f, 1g and 2.

Box 1e shows the cost or other basis of securities sold.

Box 6 shows whether the proceeds in box 1d are gross or net of commissions and fees on the sale.

Box 1f shows the amount of accrued market discount.

Boxes 7 – 13 are typically not applicable to our clients.

The odds are that you will never see an actual 1099-B form. Brokers are allowed to prepare a substitute form 1099-B that contains the same information. They virtually always do this, typically showing many transactions on a single page. Often they include a 1099-INT and/or 1099-DIV in the same document, so you may need to do a little bit of detective work to locate the part of the document where the proceeds, basis, date sold, and other data are reported.

Completing Schedule D

You are now ready to start completing Schedule D. The first thing that you should do is to examine all of the 1099-B data to make sure that the only sales reported are for common stocks or mutual funds. If the client has sold assets other than these or their own residence (for example, bonds, investment real estate, collectibles, or commodities) then the return is outside the scope of VITA programs and the client should be referred to a paid preparer. You should also verify that the basis data appears for all transactions. If not, see *Volunteer Manual – Income: Capital Gains and Losses*, page 110 and handle accordingly. Finally, if the client tells you that the reported basis data is incorrect, you should inquire as to the details – these transactions will need special handling as will be described later.

You are now ready to complete Schedule D. To do so, click "Schedule D" in the list of common forms on the left-hand side of the ProSeries window.

First locate on the 1099-B the section for transactions with basis reported to the IRS. Typically brokers split up the detailed transactions into at least four possible groups, depending on whether they are short term or long term and whether or not basis was reported to the IRS. If you can locate sub-totals for short-term gains/losses with basis reported to the IRS and long-term gains/losses with basis reported to the IRS you can enter the data quickly by doing the following:

- Subtract the proceeds and the basis for any such transactions that are marked as being a wash sale you'll handle those in a minute. Do the same for any such transactions where the client has told you that the basis is incorrect.
- Scroll down the Schedule D window until you reach the section that is labelled "Part I" and locate line 1a.
- Enter the remaining proceeds and cost for short-term gains/losses in columns d and e respectively:

Par	t I Short-Term Capital Gains ar	nd Losses — Ge	nerally Assets H	eld One Year or	Less
amo This	instructions for how to figure the unts to enter on the lines below. form may be easier to complete if round off cents to whole dollars.	(d) Proceeds (sales price)	(e) Cost (or other basis)	(g) Adjustments to gain or loss from Form(s) 8949, Part I, line 2, col (g)	(h) Gain or (loss) Subtract col (e) from col (d) and combine the result with col (g)
1a	Totals for all short-term transactions reported on Form 1099-B for which basis was reported to the IRS and for which you have no adjustments (see instructions). However, if you choose to report all these transactions on Form 8949, leave this line blank.	4,375.	2,025.		2,350
1b	Short-term totals from all Form(s) 8949 with box A checked.			2	2,330
2	Short-term totals from all Form(s) 8949 with box B checked		2 2	2	

- Now continue scrolling down the page until you get to Part II and locate line 8a, and enter the remaining proceeds and cost for long-term gains/losses in columns d and e respectively.
- You do **not** need to enter the data for each sale involved in these transactions, which makes it a big time-saver.

For the remaining transactions, you will need to enter the data separately for each transaction. To do this, scroll back toward the top of Schedule D until you get to the section labelled "Capital Gains and Losses Condensed Entry Table".

Description of Property		Date Sold	Date Acquired	S/L	
Sales Price (Proceeds)	Cost or Other Basis	Wash Loss Disallowed	Reported on Form 1099B? Basis Reported to IRS?		Trans Type TSJ
Corrected Basis (if applicable)	Adjusted Gain/Loss	Federal Witholding			
			Yes No	Yes No	
			Yes No	Yes No	

You'll note that the table is set up so that there are three possible lines of data for each transaction, and the label at the top of the table will show what goes in each box. Unless the basis is incorrect (uncommon) for most of our clients you will only need to enter data in the first two lines for each transaction. The following shows how the table is completed for three transactions. The first two are regular stock sales, one a short term loss and the other a long term loss. The third example is for a wash sale.

Description of Property			Date Sold		Date Acquired		S/L	
Sales Price (Proceeds)	Cost or Other Basis	Wash Loss Disallowed	Reported on Form 1099B?		Basis Reported to IRS?		Trans Type	
Corrected Basis (if applicable)	Adjusted Gain/Loss	Federal Witholding	Brokerage (optional)			TSJ		
100 SHARES IE	M CORP		04/29	/2016	03/04	/2015	L	
14,700.	16,000. -1,300.		Yes X	□ No	Yes 🗆	▼ No	<u>S</u> _	
100 SHARES EC	UIFAX		12/02	/2016	08/19	/2016	S	
11,403.	13,142. -1,739.		Yes X	□ No	Yes 🗆	ĭ No	S	
100 SHARES CN	A FINANCIAL		02/19	/2016	12/13	/2013	L	
2,891.	4,197.	1,306.	Yes 🛚	□ No	Yes X	No_	W_	

A wash sale occurs when there is a loss on the sale and the taxpayer purchased the same or a substantially identical security within thirty days before or after the sale. Brokers are required to identify such sales on the 1099-B. The taxpayer does not receive credit for the loss at the time of the wash sale – instead that loss is deferred until the later sale of the substantially identical security. If you enter the amount of the wash sale loss in the "Wash Loss Disallowed" block ProSeries will zero out the loss and code the tax return appropriately.

If the 1099-B has a transaction for which the basis is incorrect, and if the 1099-B shows that basis has not been reported to the IRS, then simply report the correct basis in the "Cost or Other Basis" block and no further handling is needed. If the incorrect basis has been reported to the IRS, then you should report the basis shown on the 1099-B in the "Cost or Other Basis" block, and report the correct basis in the "Corrected Basis (if applicable)" block – ProSeries will calculate the "Adjusted Gain/Loss" and will code the transaction with code "B" in column F of form 8949 and the amount of the adjustment to basis in column G.

On very rare occasions you may see a client with a large number – sometimes dozens – of transactions on their 1099-B that have to be individually reported. There is a somewhat complicated procedure for sending a copy of the 1099-B to the IRS rather than entering each transaction. If you think that might be the best way to handle the client, please see your site leader who will have access to the required procedures.

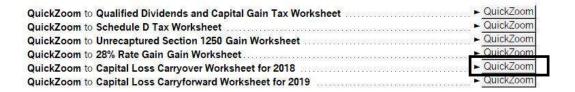
Once everything has been completed, you should check Schedule 1 line 13 of the form 1040 to make sure the gain or loss has been properly carried over.

Worksheet for Capital Loss Carryovers

A taxpayer cannot take net losses of more than \$3,000 (\$1,500 for married taxpayers filing separately) in figuring taxable income for any single tax year. The allowable loss is referred to as the deduction limit. Unused losses can be carried over to later years until they are completely used up. The carryover losses are combined with the gains and losses that actually occur in the next year.

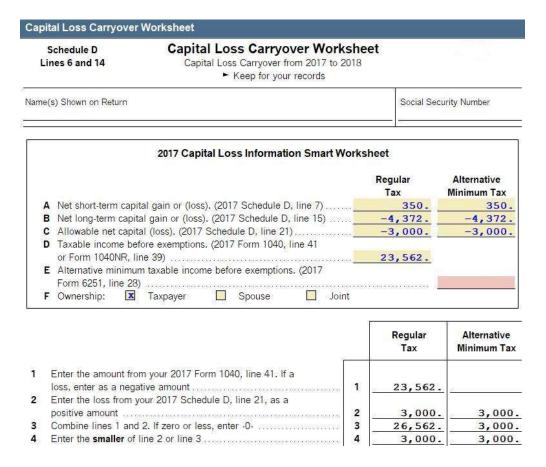
If a client had a loss carryover from the year prior to the one you are working on, and if Ladder Up prepared that return and you transferred the file, then the loss data should already be populated. In other cases, you will need to manually enter the loss.

To do this, scroll all the way to the bottom of Schedule D and click on the Capital Loss Carryover Worksheet for the year that you are working on:



When the worksheet opens, you will need to fill in the four lines at the top using the client's prior year tax return. Be sure to enter losses as a negative number. For our clients there is no need to fill in the Alternative Minimum Tax Data although some of it may populate automatically.

Once you have done this you should be able to see the loss carryover on Schedule D, either line 6 of Part I or line 14 of Part II.



Schedule K-1

Schedule K-1 is used to report the taxpayer's share of income, other distributions, deductions, and credits from partnerships, S Corporations, and some estates and trusts. One copy of Schedule K-1 is sent to the IRS and is later matched with individual returns. Another copy of Schedule K-1 is sent to the taxpayer. Ask the taxpayer if he received a Schedule K-1 from such an entity that reflects his share of income, reportable on their Form 1040. It is important to correctly report this income to avoid notices or correspondence from the IRS.

Several forms are used to report Schedule K-1:

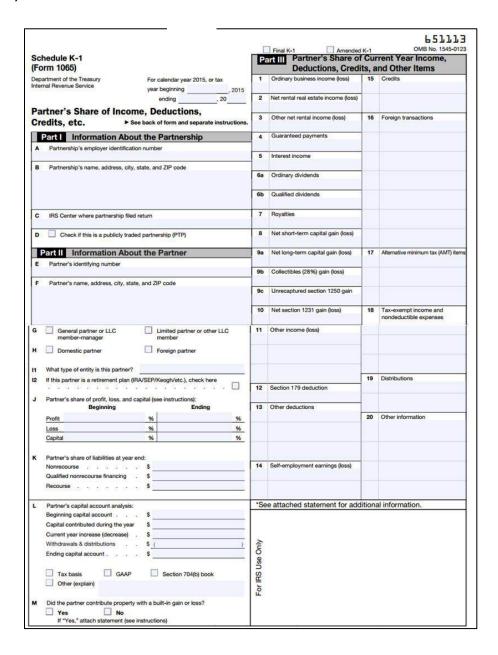
- Form 1041: Sent to fiduciaries of a domestic decedent's estate, trust, or bankruptcy estate
- Form 1065: Used by Partnerships that are not subject to income tax and are flow-through entities with reported income flowing to each shareholder. Shareholders pay tax on their allocated share of income.
- Form 1120S: Used by S Corporations to report the taxpayer's share of the corporation's income (reduced by any tax the corporation paid on the income). S corporations, similar to Partnerships, are flow-through entities with reported income flowing to each shareholder. Shareholders pay tax on their allocated share of income.

Income reported on Schedule K-1 will be included on the taxpayer's return in various places depending upon the type of income. Income reported on Schedule K-1 that is within the scope of the VITA/TCE program *only* includes:

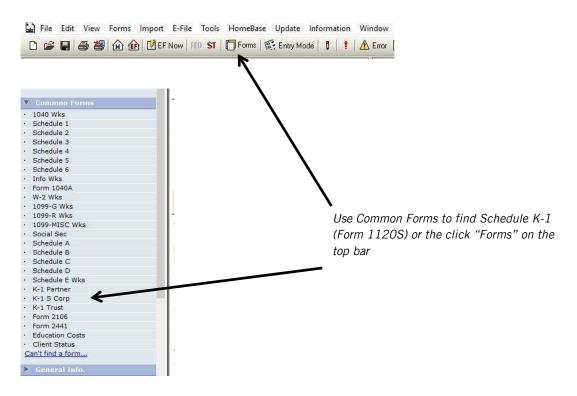
- Interest Income (Form 1040, line 2b, unless Schedule B is required)
- Dividend Income (Form 1040, lines 3a qualified dividends and 3b ordinary dividends, unless Schedule B is required)
- Net short-term capital gains and losses (Schedule D, line 5)
- Net long-term capital gains and losses (Schedule D, line 12)
- Tax-exempt interest income (Form 1040, line 3a)
- Royalty income (Schedule E, Form 1040, line 17)

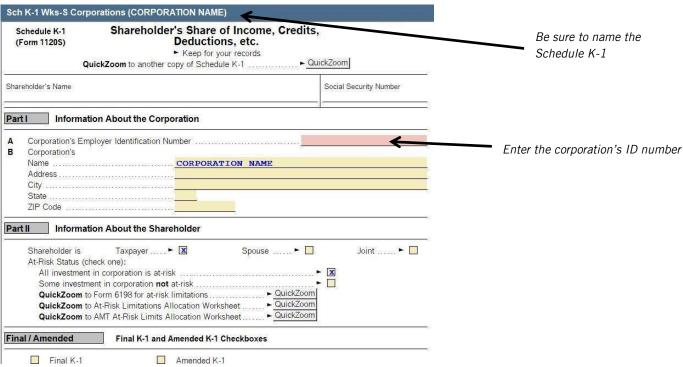
Any expenses on Schedule K-1 make the return out of scope.

Schedule K-1, Cont.

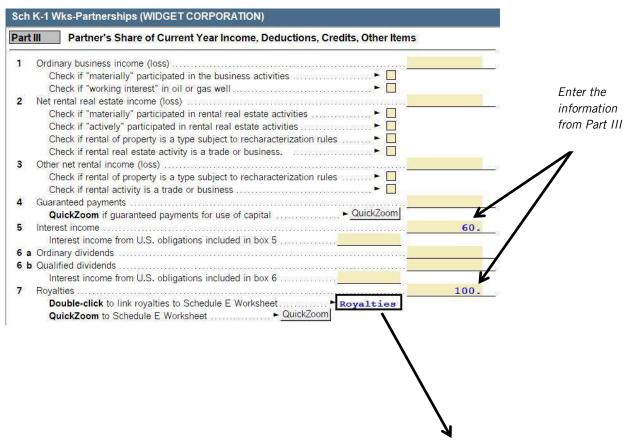


Schedule K-1, Cont.





Schedule K-1, Cont.

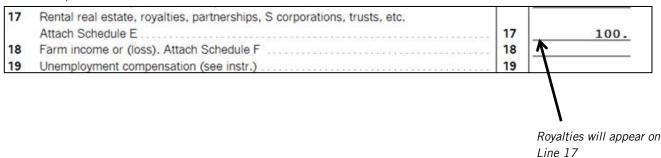


If you enter Royalties, Schedule E must be linked and completed.



An error will show up in the Forms In Use bar if the Schedule is not completed.

Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 17



Distributions from Pensions, IRSs, etc.

Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRA)

Retirement plans are funded by pre-tax or post-tax contributions

Traditional IRA: Fully taxable unless nondeductible contributions have been made. If a taxpayer has nondeductible contributions, he is out of scope and should see a paid preparer

Roth IRA: Tax-free and may be excluded from income if the distribution is made after the five year period beginning the first day of a taxable year in which a contribution was made to a Roth IRA for the taxpayer's benefit and the distribution is:

- made on or after the client is 59.5 years of age; or
- made because the taxpayer is disabled; or
- made to a beneficiary or to an estate; or
- made to pay certain first-time homebuyer amounts (up to \$10,000 lifetime limit)

Nonqualified distributions: If the conditions above are not met, the distribution is non-qualified and additional taxes may apply. In this case the return is out of scope and the taxpayer should see a professional tax preparer.

Qualified distributions: The IRA trustee will indicate the distribution is qualified by using code Q in box 7. The entire distribution is not taxable.

Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees (SIMPLE) IRA: Some employers offer their employees (including self-employed individuals) the chance to contribute part of their pay to an IRA as part of a SIMPLE plan. The employer is generally required to make contributions on behalf of eligible employees. The contributions are generally not included in the employee's income and are fully taxable when the employee receives them in later years.

Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA: Some employers offer their employees (including self-employed individuals) the chance to contribute part of their pay to an IRA as part of a SEP plan. The contributions are generally not included in the employee's income and are fully taxable when the employee receives them in later years.

How are Traditional and Roth IRA rollovers handled?

A rollover is a tax-free distribution from one retirement account to another. Box 7 on Form 1099-R will show a "G" if the rollover was from a Traditional IRA directly to another retirement account and will show an "H" if it was from a Roth IRA directly to another account. If there is an amount in box 2, the distribution may be partially taxable. For a distribution with a code other than "G" or "H" which the taxpayer says was rolled over, verify that the rollover was completed within 60 days. If the taxpayer did not roll the distribution to another account in 60 days, the taxpayer will likely be taxed on the amount. In this case, refer the taxpayer to a professional preparer.

Note: Distributions from SIMPLE IRAs can be rolled over within two years. Taxable SIMPLE IRA rollovers are out of scope.

Pension and Annuities

Fully taxable:

- Taxpayer did not pay any part of the cost of his pension or annuities
- Employer did not withhold part of the cost from the taxpayer's pay while he worked
- Employer withheld part of the cost from the taxpayer's before-tax pay while he worked

Partially taxable:

The Simplified Method can be used order to determine the taxable amount. If the client does not provide enough information to calculate the tax using the Simplified Method, Ladder Up cannot process the return and it is out of scope. The Simplified Method Worksheet can be found at the bottom of the 1099-R Worksheet in ProSeries (see page 123).

The Simplified Method calculates the taxpayer's cost basis for each monthly payment. The number of monthly payments is based on the taxpayer's age (and the spouses age if a joint/survivor annuity is selected by the taxpayer) on the annuity start date. The calculation is not changed for subsequent events such as divorce, marriage, or death.

Taxpayer's cost basis / Number of Monthly payments = Monthly Tax-Free Portion

You will need:

- The cost in the plan (total employee contribution on Form 1099-R)
- The taxpayer's age on the date the annuity began
- Total of tax-free amounts from previous years, available from the taxpayer's prior-year worksheet

VOID CORRECTED 1 Gross distribution OMB No. 1545-0119 **Distributions From** PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province. country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or 20° **Profit-Sharing** 2a Taxable amount Plans, IRAs, Form 1099-R Contracts, etc. Taxable amount Total Copy 1 not determined distribution For RECIPIENT'S identification PAYER'S federal identification State, City, Capital gain (included in box 2a) 4 Federal income tax or Local Tax Department RECIPIENT'S name Employee contribution: /Designated Roth contributions or Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities 8 Other Street address (including apt. no.) 7 Distribution code(s) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code 9a Total employee contributions Your percentage of total distribution 10 Amount allocable to IRR 11 1st year of FATCA filling 12 State tax withheld 13 State/Payer's state no. 14 State distribution desig. Roth contrib 15 Local tax withheld 17 Local distribution Account number (see instructions) 16 Name of locality

Form 1099-R: Distribution from Pension, Annuities, Retirement

www.irs.gov/form1099r

Generally, payers of pension and annuity income send Form 1099-R to recipients. Sometime clients will have a letter on bank letterhead that provides substantially the same information as Form 1099-R. In that case, you can accept the bank letter in place of the 1099-\$.

Retirement income may be partially or fully taxable. The total pension or annuity income is reported on Form 1040, line 4a; the taxable portion is reported on Form 1040, line 4b.

Box 1 shows the **total amount** received during the year and is reported on Form 1040, line 4a. Note: Some portion of the amount shown in Box 1 of the 1099-R may not be taxable. See details for Box 7.

Box 2a generally shows the **taxable amount** of the distribution. However, if there is no entry, there may still be a taxable portion. See details for box 2b.

Box 2b indicates:

Form 1099-R

- Taxable amount: If the first box is checked, the payer could not determine this amount.
- If box 2a is blank determine the taxable amount by using the Simplified Method. For information, see pages122, and 125-126.

 Total distribution: If the second box is checked, the distribution was total and closed out the taxpayer's account.

Box 4 shows the federal income tax withheld.

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Box 7 identifies the distribution received and <u>helps</u> <u>determine the tax treatment</u> of the distribution. Codes:

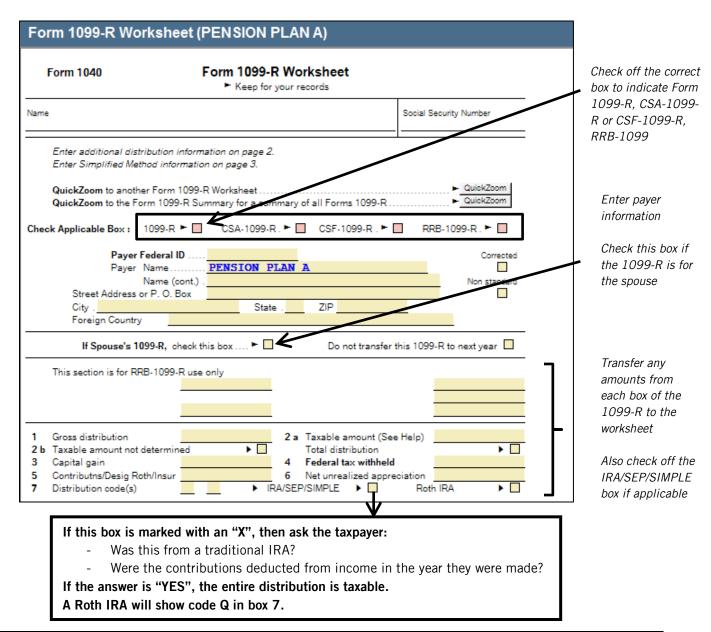
- 1: Early distribution subject to additional 10% tax unless rolled over. The additional tax is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 4, line 59.
- 2: Early distribution, exception applies
- 3: Disability, see details on page 125
- 7: Normal distribution (no additional tax applies)
- Q: As a Roth distribution, the entire amount is not taxable

Exceptions when Box 7 is marked with Code 1, Early Distribution

If an exception applies but Box 7 shows code 1, Form 5329 must be filed. For example, a taxpayer may have used the distribution to pay medical expenses in excess of 10% of his adjusted gross income. Other exceptions include paying for education. The taxable amount shown in Box 2a of Form 1099-R is entered on line 1 of Form 5329. On line 2, enter the amount that can be excluded and the exception number shown in the Form 5329 instructions. See the Other Taxes and Payments section of Publication 4012 for a complete list of exceptions.



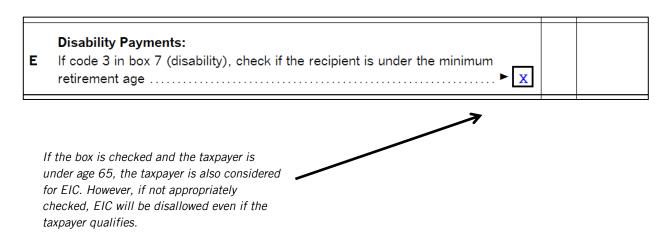
In ProSeries, 1099-R information is entered using the Form 1099-R Worksheet. As with the W-2 Worksheet, a separate 1099-R Worksheet must be created for each 1099-R the taxpayer and spouse have. Use the Forms Bar on the left to create a new, or edit an existing, 1099-R worksheet.



Qualified disability income reported on Form 1099-R with a Distribution Code 3 in Box 7 is reported as earned income wages on line 1 of Form 1040 until the minimum retirement age is met, provided that box E on page 2 of the ProSeries 1099-R worksheet is checked.

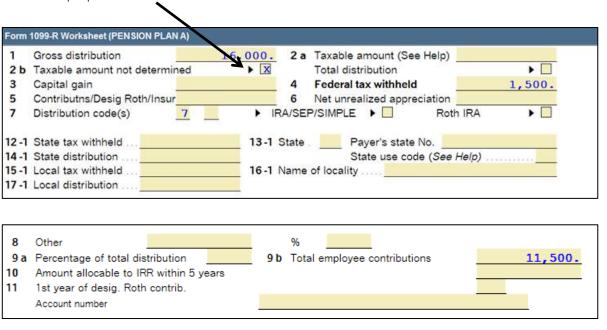
Since taxpayers under age 65 may qualify for the Earned Income Credit (EIC), be sure to check box E of the Form 1099-R worksheet page 2.

Beginning on the day after reaching the minimum retirement age (per the employer), these payments are taxable as unearned pension income and are no longer reported as wages. Once the taxpayer reaches the minimum retirement age, do not check box E and ProSeries will enter the total and taxable pension payments on Form 1040, lines 4a and 4b.

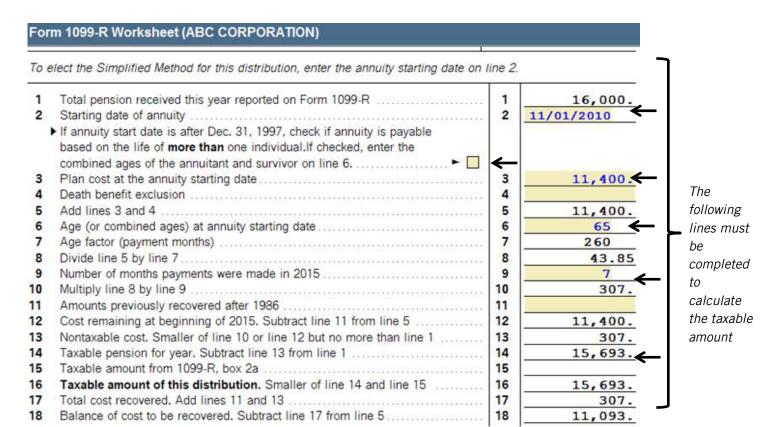


Taxable Amount Not Determined, Simplified Method

If box 2b is checked <u>and</u> box 2a is empty on the Form 1099-R then the taxable amount needs to be determined in order to prepare the return.



1099-R, Taxable Amount Not Determined, Simplified Method, Cont.



- Start date of annuity: Enter the date of the first payment received
- Plan cost at annuity start date: The cost is usually the net investment in the plan as of the annuity start date. This amount should be reported in Box 9b on Form 1099-R for the first year the taxpayer received payments from the plan.
- Age (or combined ages) at annuity starting date: If the taxpayer elected joint survivorship, enter the age or combined ages of the policyholder and the survivor. ProSeries will not automatically calculate this figure so be sure to figure the correct age at the date of the first payment.
- Number of months payments were made in 2018: Enter the number of months for which this year's payments were made. E.g. first payment received in March means that 10 months of payments were made (12 months in a year January and February did not have payments = 10 months of payments made).

Be sure to include an amount on Line 11 (amounts previously recovered) if the payments began before 2018. If the client file was transferred, this information will automatically be populated.

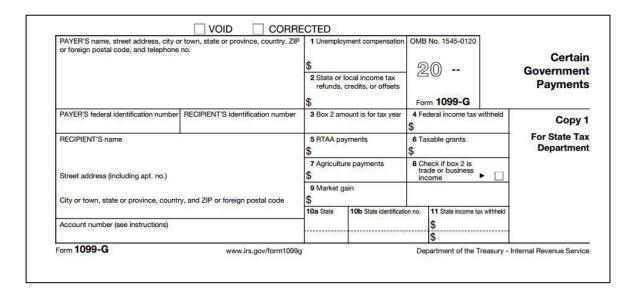
If information if missing or otherwise incorrect you can calculate this number manually, use the following formula: 1. Complete lines 2, 6, and 9 with information provided by the taxpayer



2 If you do not have consulted information to con-

If you do not have complete information to accurately fill in lines 2, 6, and 9, make the full amount of the pension taxable.

Form 1099-G: Certain Government Payments



Form 1099-G reports certain government payments for the year. The types of payments in scope of the program are unemployment compensation and state or local income tax refunds. The majority of TAP clients do not have taxable state or local income refunds to report (will only be taxable if they itemized deductions in year that generated the refund..

Box 1 shows the **unemployment compensation** payment amount and is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 19.

Box 2 shows state or local income tax refunds, credits, or offsets. Part or all of the amount *may* be included as income for 2018 on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 10. See right and page 129 for more information.

Box 4 shows the amount of federal income tax withheld. This amount must be recorded accurately to calculate the correct amount that the taxpayer will be refunded or will owe the IRS. The amount in Box 4 is included on Form 1040, line 16.

When are amounts in Box 2 counted as income? If the taxpayer claimed the <u>standard deduction</u> on the tax return for 2017, any refund amount will <u>not</u>

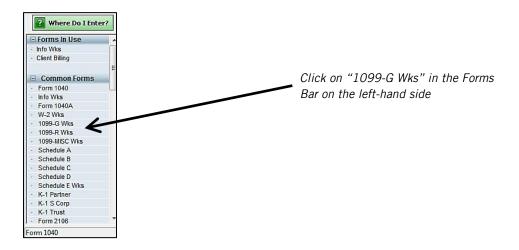
If the taxpayer <u>itemized deductions</u> for 2017, the state or local refund *may* be taxable in part or in whole. See page 129 for details.

be counted as income on the 2018 return.

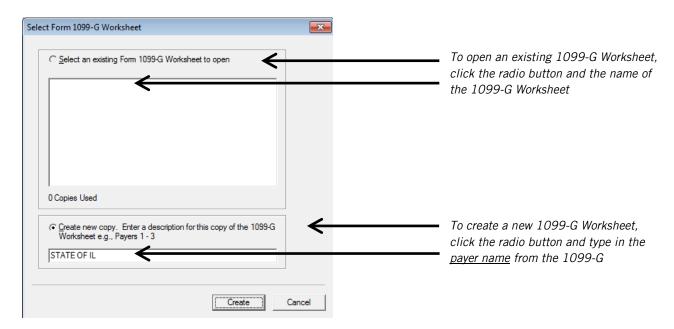
If the state refund was for a year prior to 2017 (indicated in box 3) but was received in 2018, the return is out of scope for the program.

1099-G Worksheet

In ProSeries, 1099-G information is entered using the 1099-G Worksheet. Use the Forms Bar to start a new or edit an existing 1099-G Worksheet:

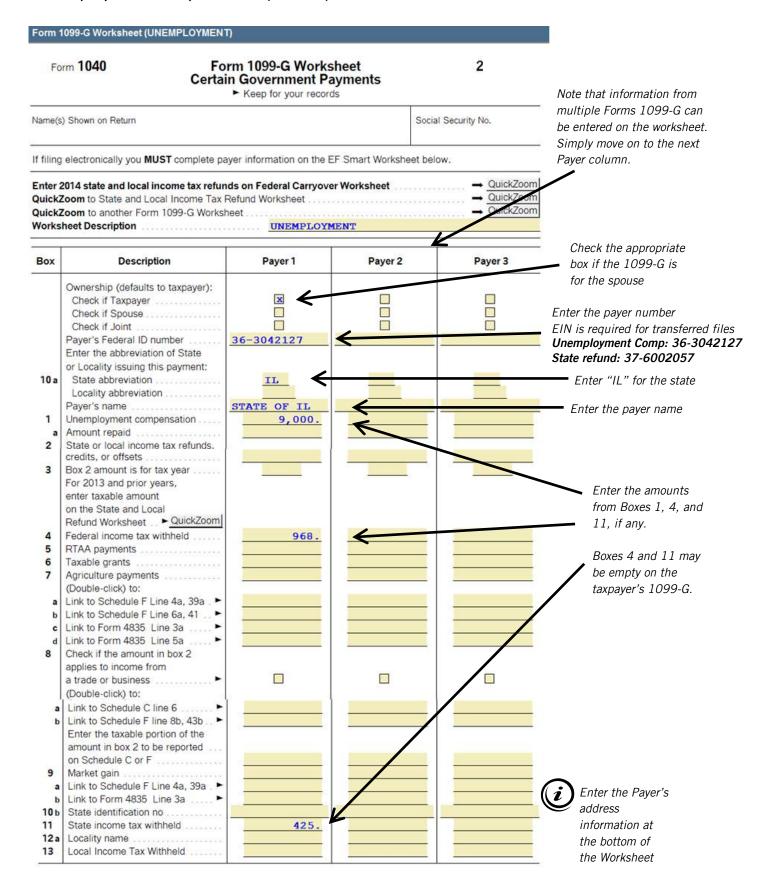


That action will automatically bring up the Select Form 1099-G Worksheet dialog box, as shown below:



See the next page for details about filling out a 1099-G Worksheet.

Unemployment Compensation (1099-G)



State and Local Income Tax Refunds (1099-G)

State refunds are NOT taxable if...

the client claimed the <u>standard deduction</u> on the tax return for 2017

OR

the taxpayer elected to deduct state and local general <u>sales</u> taxes instead of state and local income taxes

State refunds MAY be taxable if...

the client <u>itemized deductions</u> for 2017 and deducted state and local income taxes

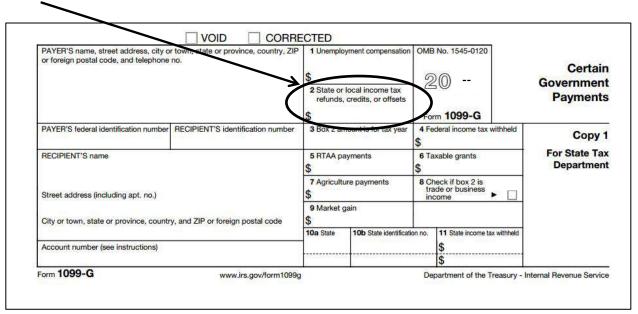
What if the client doesn't have his 1099-G but received a state refund?

Speak with the client to determine whether the information is needed for the return. Ask to see his 2017 return if he brought it. Ask if he itemized last year, and whether he has a home mortgage. Most Ladder Up clients only itemize if they have a home mortgage. You can look up 1099-G refund information using this link and the taxpayer's SSN: https://mytax.illinois.gov/



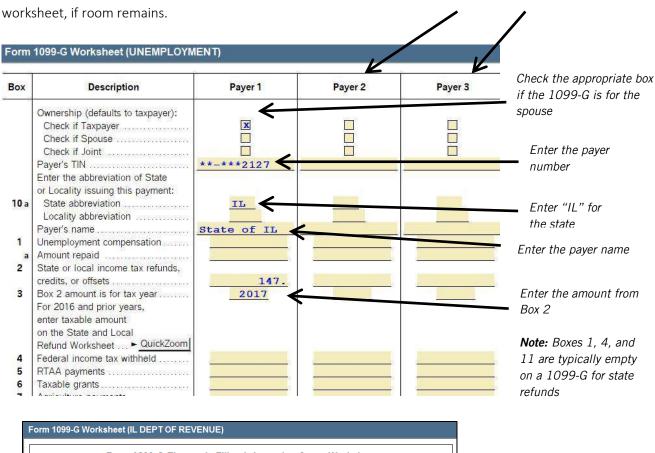
The client's <u>2017</u> federal tax return must be referenced to determine what portion, if any, of the state refund must be included in income for 2018. If the client did not bring a copy of his 2017 return but had his return completed at a Ladder Up site, check with the Site Leader to see if the ProSeries file can be retrieved.

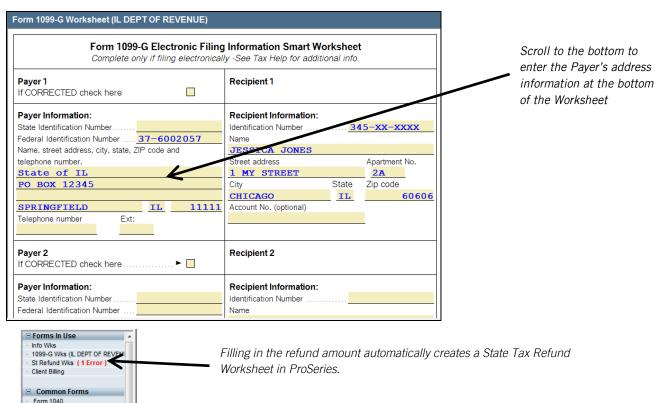
If the state refund was for a year prior to 2017 but was received in 2018, the return is <u>out of scope</u> for the program.



State and Local Income Tax Refunds (1099-G), Cont.

Start a 1099-G Worksheet if one hasn't been started already. See page 129 for instructions on how to start a worksheet. You can create a new worksheet for the state refund or use the next Payer column in an existing worksheet if room remains





Forms SSA-1099, RRB-1099 and RRB-1099-R

Social Security benefits are reported on Form SSA-1099. Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits are referred to as "Social Security equivalent benefits" and, for tax purposes, are treated like Social Security benefits. They are shown on Form RRB-1099.

Railroad Retirement Benefits (RRB) are reported on two forms and require two entry screens.

Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits are referred to as "Social Security equivalent benefits" and, for tax purposes, are treated like Social Security benefits. They are shown on Form RRB-1099 (Blue Form).

Treat the benefits reported on this form just like the information reported on Form SSA-1099. Tier 2 benefits are reported on Form RRB 1099-R (Green Form).

Whether Social Security benefits are taxable or not depends on total income and filing status. If a client received income from other sources, his benefits will not be taxed unless his modified adjusted gross income is more than the base amount for his filing status as shown below.

Modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is equal to:

- (a) One-half of the Social Security benefits (and equivalent Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits)

 PIUS
- (b) Adjusted Gross Income from Form 1040 Line 7, including tax-exempt interest

The base amounts are as follows:

- \$25,000 if the filing status is Single, Head of Household, or Qualifying Widow(er)
- \$32,000 if the filing status is Married Filing Jointly
- \$25,000 if the filing status is Married Filing Separately and the taxpayer lived apart from his spouse for all of the year
- \$0 if the filing status is Married Filing Separately and the taxpayer lived with his spouse at any time during the year



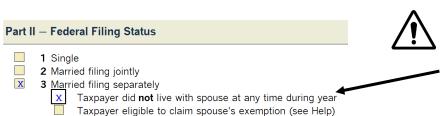
Once the SSA-1099 and RRB-1099 information, along with all other taxpayer income, adjustments, credits, and deductions, is correctly entered into ProSeries, the taxable portion, if any, is automatically calculated.

Include in a taxpayer's return:

Taxpayer's benefits from Form SSA-1099 and spouse's benefits from Form SSA-1099, if filing a joint return

Do NOT include:

Any dependent's Form SSA-1099 for benefits received in the dependent's name



Remember to mark if the taxpayer did not live with their spouse – this greatly affects the taxability of SS benefits

4 Head of household

Form SSA-1099



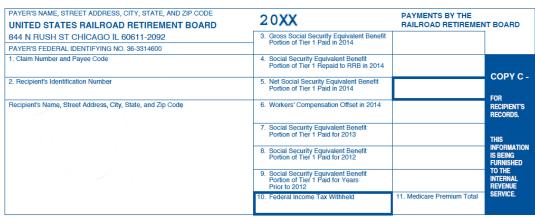
Box 1 shows the benefits recipient. Remember, only the taxpayer's and spouse's benefits are entered on the return. Do not include payments in a dependent's name.

Box 3 shows benefits paid, before adjustments. The Description of Amount in Box 3 includes both benefits and adjustments. A common adjustment is Medicare premiums deducted from benefits.

Box 5 shows net benefits paid for the year.

Box 6 shows **federal income tax withheld**. This box may be empty.

Form RRB-1099 (Tier 1 Benefits)



FORM RRB-1099

DO NOT ATTACH TO YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN

Box 3 Gross Social Security Equivalent Benefit portion of Tier 1 paid during the tax year.

The amount in Box 3 already includes the amount in Box 7.

Box 4 SSEB portion of Tier 1 repaid to the Railroad Retirement Board

Box 5 Net SSEB portion of Tier 1 received during the tax year (amount in Box 3 – amount in Box 4). A figure in parenthesis indicates a negative figure meaning that you repaid more than you received or were credited with receiving during the tax year.

Box 6 This amount is for informational purposes. This is the amount of any workers' compensation deducted from SSEB payments. This amount is included in the amount shown in Box 3.

Box 10 Shows federal income tax withheld

Box 11 Total amount of Medicare parts B, C and/or D premiums deducted from the railroad retirement annuity payments during the year.

Forms RRB-1099-R (Tier 2 Benefits)

Note: Form RRB-1099-R requires Advanced certification

UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BO 844 N RUSH ST CHICAGO IL 60611-2092	Employee Contributions	
PAYER'S FEDERAL IDENTIFYING NO. 36-3314600		
Claim Number and Payee Code	Contributory Amount Paid	COPY B -
Recipient's Identification Number	Vested Dual Benefit	REPORT THIS INCOME ON YOUR FEDERAL TAX
Recipient's Name, Street Address, City, State, and Zip Code	Supplemental Annuity	RETURN. IF THIS FORM SHOWS FEDERAL INCOME
	7. Total Gross Paid (Sum of boxes 4, 5 and 6)	TAX WITHHELD IN BOX 9 ATTACH THIS COPY TO YOUR RETURN.
	8. Repayments	1,051,112,01111
	Federal Income Tax Withheld	THIS INFORMATION IS BEING FURNISHED TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.
	10. Rate of Tax	11. Country 12. Medicare Premium Total

Tier 2 benefits must be entered on the 1099-R worksheet. Remember to click the RRB-1099-R box near the top of the worksheet! This will bring up a version of the worksheet aligned with the RRB-1099-R form.

Box 3 shows the amount the employee paid towards the benefits and is needed to help calculate the taxable portion of the payment.

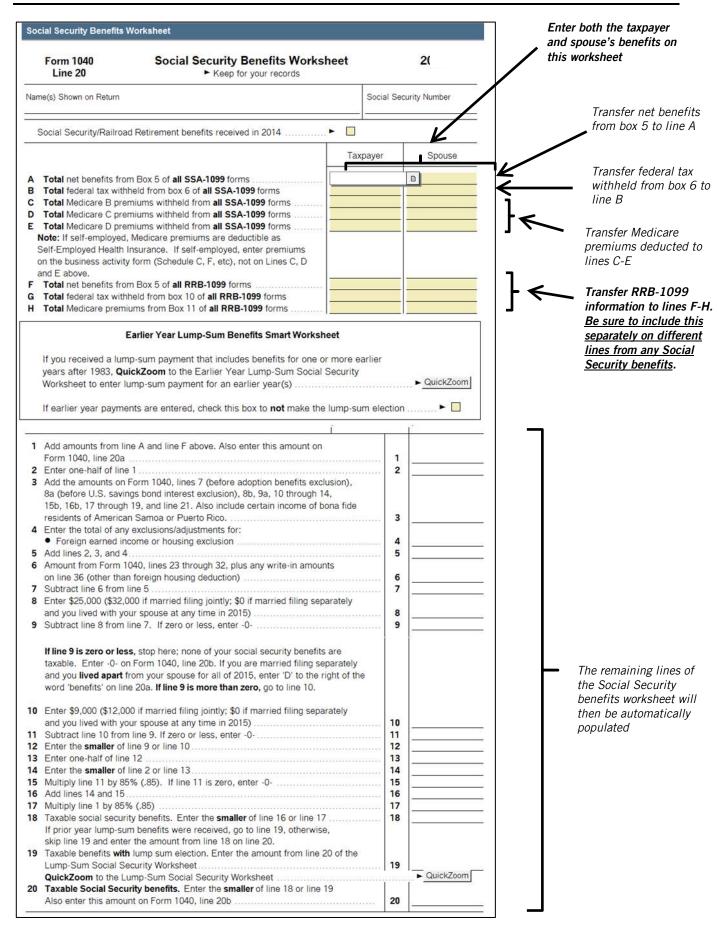
Boxes 4, 5, 6 and 7 show the total amount paid (box 7) broken down into the various types of payments (boxes 4, 5 and 6)

Box 9 shows the amount of federal income tax withheld

Forms SSA-1099 and RRB-1099

In ProSeries, SSA-1099 and RRB-1099 information is entered using the Social Security Benefits Worksheet. To get to the Worksheet click on Social Security in the Forms Bar:





Tier 2 benefits

Entering Form RRB-1099- R

_	4000 5 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				(blue form) are entered on a 1099-
	1099-R Worksheet (United States R	Form 1099-R Wor Keep for your red		-	Retul R worksheet. Open the worksheet and click the option for RRB-1099-R, the subsequent fields
Name	€			Social Security Number	will change to match the fields of that form.
	Enter additional distribution Enter Simplified Method info	, ,			that form.
	QuickZoom to another Form QuickZoom to the Form 109			P QuickZoon QuickZoon QuickZoon	_ /
Chec	ck Applicable Box: 1099-R	CSA-1099-R ► □	CSF-1099-R ►	RRB-1099-R ► X	
	Payer Name Name (c	United States ont.) Retirement Boa Box 844 N. Rush St State IL	rd •	Correct Non stand	
	If Spouse's RRB-1099-R,	check this box ►	Do not transfer thi	is RRB-1099-R to next	t year
	For RRB-1099-R. See Help Employee Contributions	4	Contributory An Taxable Amoun		
5	Vested Dual Benefit	6	Supplemental A	Annuity	
8	Total Gross Paid Taxable amount not detern Capital gain (lump-sum only) Repayments Distribution Code	9 12		ribution hheld ium Total	
14 -1 15 -1	State tax withheld State distribution Local tax withheld Local distribution	13 -1 Stat		state No se code (<i>See Help</i>)	
•	Check if NOT from a qualifi If box 7 code is J or T , che If box 7 code is J , enter an	ck if a cualified Roth IRA	distribution (see He	elp) 🟲 🔲	
		Ask the client if they receive regular monthly payments. If so, use distribution code 7.	simp calcu amou dedu is en of the	ox 3 shows a positive and allified method found or ulate the taxable amount of the payment that ucted over the life of the tered on Line 3 in the e 1099-R worksheet to be amount.	n page 122 to nt. Box 3 is the t can be e pension. This very last section

Disability Income - SSDI and SSI

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

SSDI benefits may be paid to people who cannot work because of a medical condition expected to last at least one year or result in death. A disabled or blind individual must have paid Social Security taxes to become insured for these benefits. Certain family members may also qualify for benefits based on an employee's work.

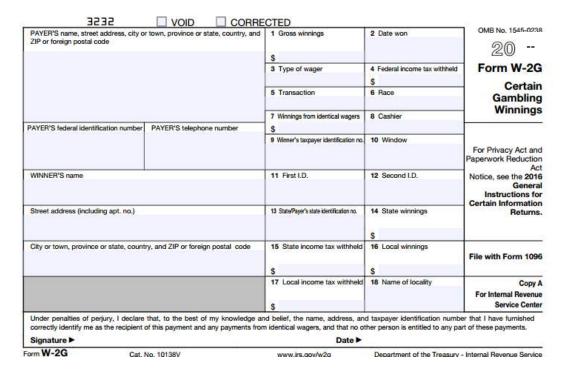
SSDI payments fall under the same taxable/nontaxable rules as other Social Security benefits reported on Form SSA-1099. A taxpayer with a filing status of Single will pay taxes on his SSDI benefits if his modified adjusted gross income is more than \$25,000. Married taxpayers filing jointly will have to pay taxes if their combined modified adjusted gross income is greater than \$32,000. See page 132 for the definition of **modified adjusted gross income** (MAGI) and for more information about how to handle Social Security benefits.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is administered by the Social Security Administration and pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. SSI recipients may or may not also receive Social Security benefits, and the two are treated differently for tax purposes.

SSI payments are not subject to federal taxes, so recipients do not have to report payments on their tax returns. If a client comes in with a statement of SSI eligibility or payments received, you can simply set the document aside. However, it is unlikely that a client who receives SSI will have another income documents as they do not typically overlap.

Form W-2G: Certain Gambling Winnings



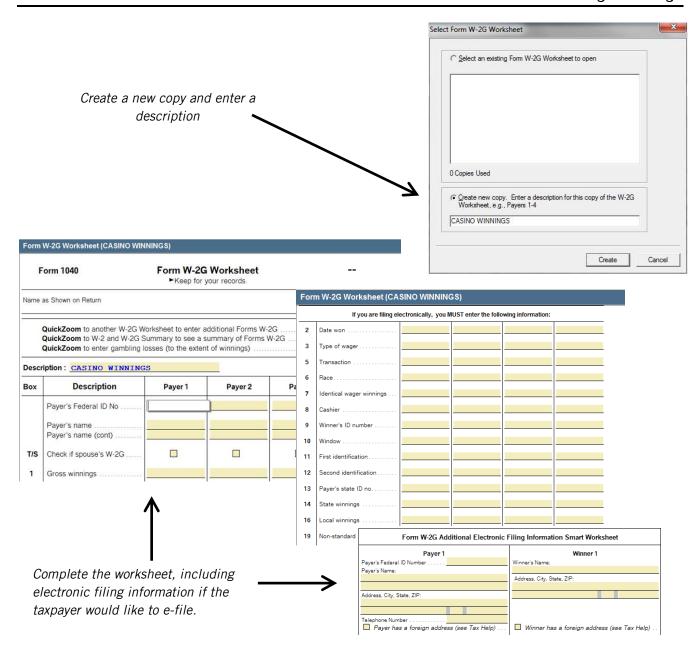
Form W-2G may be issued to the taxpayer for certain gambling winnings. Total gambling winnings must be reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1, line 21. If the taxpayer also had gambling losses, the losses can be deducted on Schedule A. As always, the taxpayer must be itemizing in order to take advantage of this deduction. See *Volunteer Manual – Deductions: Itemized* for more information about itemized deductions.

Box 1 shows **gross winnings**. The payer must furnish a Form W-2G if the taxpayer's winnings exceed certain thresholds that vary based on the gambling activity.

Box 2 shows federal income tax withheld. Be sure to include this amount on the taxpayer's return in ProSeries.

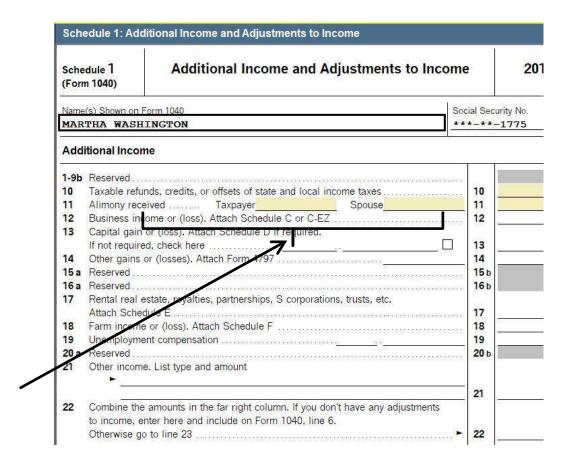
Note: The State of Illinois has no deduction for gambling losses. Therefore gambling earnings are always fully taxable on the state return. ProSeries will automatically handle this calculation.

Sometimes gambling winnings are from states outside of Illinois. If a client has winnings from Indiana or Wisconsin, they can go to the Library in March for assistance with filing of their state returns. Olive Harvey may be able to assist clients with Indiana income depending on volunteer availability.



Alimony – Payments Received

Alimony or separate maintenance payments made under a court order or pursuant to some (but not all) divorce or separation agreements are taxable income to the person receiving them and are reported directly on Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 11. No tax form is typically received for these payments.



If the taxpayer's filing status is **Married Filing Jointly**, enter the alimony payments in the Taxpayer and/or Spouse fields to the left of line 11 instead. ProSeries will add the amounts and transfer the sum to line 11.

The person paying alimony can subtract it as an adjustment to income; the person receiving alimony must treat it as income. *Volunteer Manual – Adjustments to Income: Alimony Paid*, page 155 describes how to determine whether a payment under a divorce or separation agreement is alimony and thus taxable to the recipient. You will need to see the actual court order or divorce or separation agreement to determine whether the amounts paid are alimony.

Notes:

- See *Volunteer Manual Adjustments to Income: Alimony Paid* for how to handle alimony payments made by a taxpayer.
- Clients with divorce or separation agreements executed before 1985 need to be referred to a professional tax preparer. Their returns are out of scope of our program.
- For divorce decrees finalized in 2019 or later, alimony will no longer be taxable to the recipient or deductible to the payer.

Form 1099-C: Cancellation of Debt, Nonbusiness Credit Card Debt

A taxpayer receives Form 1099-C because a Federal government agency or an applicable financial entity (a creditor) has discharged (canceled or forgiven) a debt he owed, or because an identifiable event has occurred that either is or is deemed to be a discharge of debt of \$600 or more. Only certain debt cancellations on non-business credit card debt and home mortgage debt are in scope (see below for details), all other debt cancellation is out of scope.

Date of identifiable event Amount of debt discharged Interest if included in box 2 Debt description	OMB No. 1545-1424 20 Form 1099-C	Cancellation of Debt
Interest if included in box 2	20 Form 1099-C	of Debt
	Form 1099-C	Copy B
Debt description		Copy B
		Copy D
		For Debtor
		This is important tax information and is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you
f checked, the debtor was p repayment of the debt .	ersonally liable for	are required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other sanction may be
		imposed on you if taxable income results from this transaction
dentifiable event code	7 Fair market value of property \$	and the IRS determines that it has not been reported.
le	epayment of the debt .	dentifiable event code 7 Fair market value of propert

Box 1. Shows the date the earliest identifiable event occurred, at the creditor's discretion, the date of an actual discharge that occurred before an identifiable event. See code in box 6.

Box 2. Shows the amount of debt either actually or deemed discharged. Note: If the taxpayer does not agree with the amount, he should contact his creditor.

Box 3. Shows interest if included in the debt reported in box 2. If this is mortgage debt cancellation then interest makes it out of scope.

Box 4. Shows a description of the debt. If box 7 is completed, box 4 also shows a description of the property. This description can help you determine if the cancellation of debt is a type that is in scope.

Box 5. Shows whether the taxpayer was personally liable for repayment of the debt when the debt was created or, if modified, at the time of the last modification. See Pub. 4681.

Box 6. Shows the reason the creditor has filed this form. The codes in this box are described in more detail.

Box 7. If, in the same calendar year, a foreclosure or abandonment of property occurred in connection with the cancellation of debt, the fair market value (FMV) of the property will be shown, or the taxpayer will receive a separate Form 1099-A (1099-A is out of scope). Generally, the gross foreclosure bid price is considered to be the FMV. For an abandonment or voluntary conveyance in lieu of foreclosures, the FMV is generally the appraised value of the property. The taxpayer may have some income or loss because of the acquisition or abandonments. If the property was his main home, see Pub. 523 to figure any taxable gain or ordinary income.

1099-C, Cont.

Screer	ning for Nonbusiness Credit Card Debt Cancellation	
Step 1	Did the taxpayer receive Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, or other documentation (if less than \$600) from a creditor and is the information shown on the form or document correct? Note: The creditor is not required to isssue a Form 1099-C if the canceled debt is under \$600. However, the taxpayer may be required to report the canceled debt as income reguardless of the amount.	Yes - Go To Step 2 No - Go to Step 6
Step 2	Was the credit card debt related to a business?	Yes - Go to Step 6 No - Go to Step 3
Step 3	Does box 3 of Form 1099-C show any interest or was box 6 checked to indicate bankruptcy? Note: If the bankruptcy box is not checked but the taxpayer has subsequently filed bankruptcy, answer "yes."	Yes - Go to Step 6 No - Go to Step 4
Step 4	Was the taxpayer insolvent immediately before the cancellation of debt? Use the Insolvency Determination Worksheet in Pub. 4012 and interview the taxpayer to determine if the taxpayer was insolvent immediately before the cancellation of debt.	Yes - Go to Step 6 No - Go to Step 5
Step 5	The cancellation of nonbusiness indebtedness or cancellation of debt (the amount in tan amount less than \$600 provided in other documentation) must be reported as ordi 1040, line 21 (Other Income). No additional supporting forms or schedules are requir from canceled credit card debt.	nary income on Form
Step 6	This tax issue is outside the scope fo the volunteer programs. The taxpayer may quality of the discharged debt. However, the rules involved are complex. Refer the taxpayer to: - www.irs.gov for the most up-to-date information. - The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS): 1-877-777-4778, TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059. problem cannot be resolved through normal IRS channels. - A professional tax preparer.	

Insolvency Determination Worksheet

Assets (FMV)
Homes
Cars
Recreational vehicles, etc
Bank accounts
IRAs, 401Ks, etc.
Jewelry
Furniture
Clothes
Misc.
Other Assets
Total Assets
Total Assets

Liabilities
Mortgages
Home equity loans
Vehicle loans
Personal signature loans
Credit card debts
Past-due mortgage interest, real estate
taxes, utilities, and child care costs
Student loans
Other liabilities
Total Liabilities

Total Assets minus Total Liabilities = \$

(Negative amount equals insolvency)

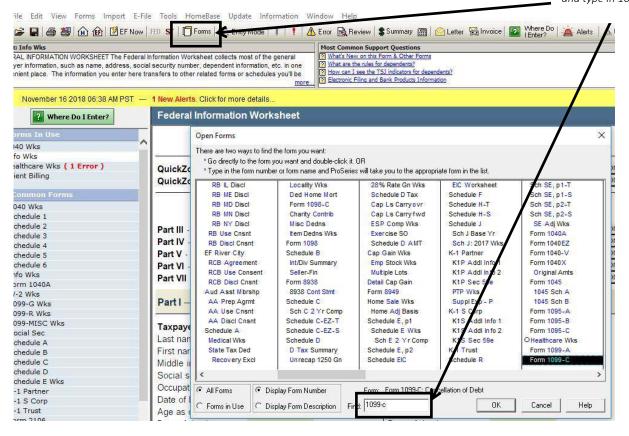
(Positive amount equals solvency)

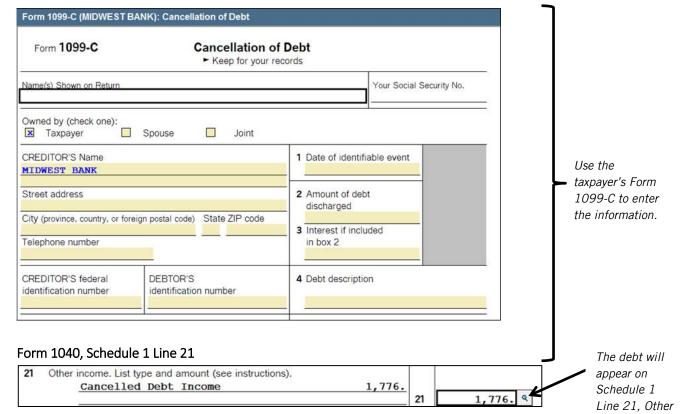


<u>Note</u>: most Ladder Up clients are insolvent and should qualify for this exception. Since this exception is <u>out-of-scope</u>, it is best to **let the client decide if they would like to forgo the exclusion of the debt** from income based on the cost of paid preparation and the overall reduction of tax liability.

ProSeries, Cancellation of Debt

Use the Forms button, and type in 1099-C





Income

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and Qualified Tuition Programs (QTPs), also called "section 529 plans," are accounts that help individuals save for the cost of elementary, high school, or higher education.

Generally, an individual can establish a Coverdell ESA for a child who is under age 18. Coverdell ESAs (section 530 plans) and QTPs include the following provisions:

- Money is contributed to a special account
- Contributions are not deductible
- Earnings amounts deposited into the account grow tax-free until distributed
- No tax is due on distributions if the beneficiary had qualified education expenses that were at least as much as the distributions during the year.

Be sure to note that the definition of qualified education expenses is different for the various education benefits. Qualified education expenses for ESAs and QTPs are summarized in Appendix B in the back of Publication 970. The details are outlined in the text of that publication.

Ask the taxpayer questions to determine if he is using the funds for qualified education expenses. The taxpayer will receive Form 1099-Q, Payments from Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530), for each of the Coverdell ESAs and QTPs from which money was distributed during the tax year. The amount of gross distribution will be shown in box 1.

Additional information about educational savings accounts, distributions, and qualified education expenses can be found in Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

Refer the taxpayer/beneficiary to a professional tax preparer if:

- The funds were not used for qualified education expenses or
- The distribution was more than the amount of the qualified expenses

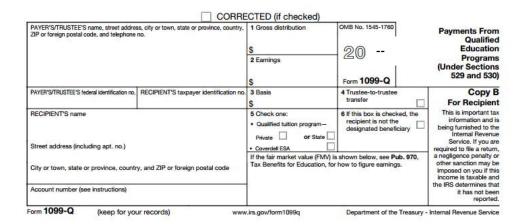
An American Opportunity Credit or Lifetime Learning Credit can be claimed in the same year that the beneficiary takes a tax-free distribution from a QTP or Coverdell ESAs, as long as the same expenses are not used for both benefits.



Out-of-Scope for ESA: Distributions from Educational Savings Accounts in which the:

- Funds were not used for qualified education expenses, or
- Distribution was more than the amount of the qualified expenses

Form 1099–Q: Payments from Qualified Education Programs



Box 1 shows the gross distribution (including in-kind distributions) paid to the taxpayer this year from a qualified tuition program (QTP) under section 529, or a Coverdell ESA (CESA) under section 530. This amount is the total of the amounts shown in box 2 and box 3. See details for more information.

Box 2 shows the earnings part of the gross distribution shown in box 1. Generally, amounts distributed are included in income unless they are used to pay for qualified education expenses, transferred between trustees, or rolled over to another qualified education program within 60 days. Report taxable amounts as "Other Income" on Form 1040. See details for more information.

Box 3 shows the taxpayer's basis in the gross distribution reported in box 1.

Box 4 is checked if a trustee-to-trustee transfer was made from one QTP to another QTP, from one CESA to another CESA, or from a CESA to a QTP. However, in certain transfers from a CESA, the box will be blank.

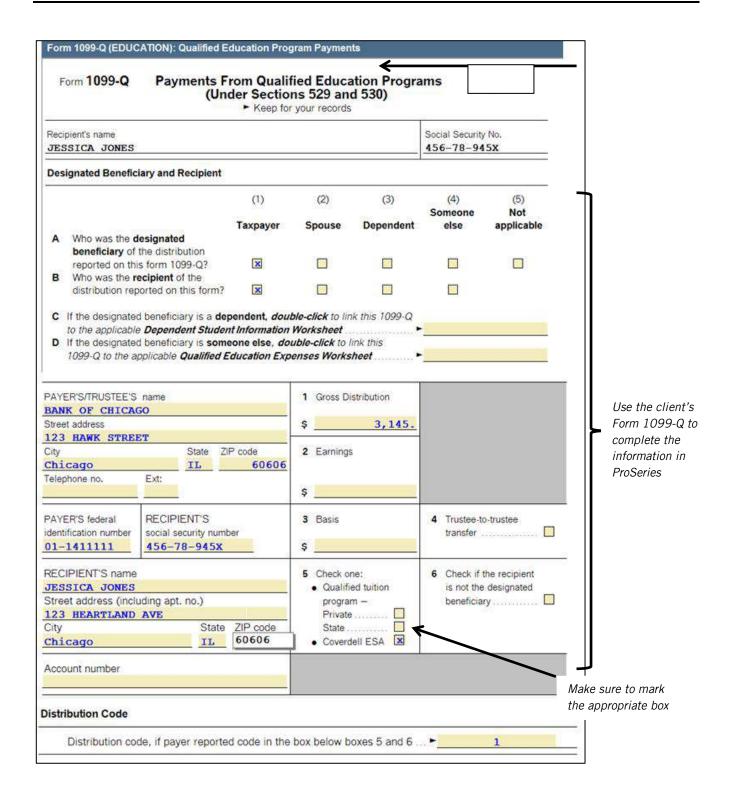
Box 5 shows whether the gross distribution was from a QTP (private or state) or from a CESA.

Box 6. The designated beneficiary is the individual named in the document creating the trust or custodial account to receive the benefit of the funds in the account.

Distribution codes. For 2018, the payer/trustee may, but is not required to, report (in the box below boxes 5 and 6) one of the following codes to identify the distribution that the taxpayer received:

Code	Description
1	Distributions (including transfers)
2	Excess contributions plus earnings taxable in 2017
3	Excess contributions plus earnings taxable in 2016
4	Disability
5	Death
6	Prohibited transaction

Note. Nontaxable distributions from CESAs and QTPs, including rollovers, are not required to be reported on your income tax return. See Pub. 970 for more information.



Medicaid Waiver Payments

On January 3, 2014, the IRS issued Notice 2014-7 addressing the income tax treatment of certain payments to an individual care provider under a state Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (Medicaid waiver) program. The notice provides that the IRS will treat "qualified Medicaid waiver payments" as difficulty of care payments excludable from gross income. Qualified Medicaid waiver payments are payments by a:

- State
- Political subdivision of a state
- Certified Medicaid provider under a Medicaid waiver program to an individual care provider for nonmedical support services provided under a plan of care to an individual (whether related or unrelated) living in the individual care provider's home.

If a taxpayer received payments described in Notice 2014-7, he may receive a Form 1099-MISC reporting these payments in box 3, Other Income. Generally, an amount reported in box 3 of Form 1099-MISC is reported on Form 1040, Schedule 1, line 21, To exclude the payment from income, he should not include the amount of those payments on Schedule 1, line 21 and should include "Notice 2014-7" in the explanation area.

If the taxpayer received a Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, with the amount of the payments reported in box 1, Wages, tips, other compensation, and chooses to exclude the payment from income, include the full amount of those payments on Form 1040, line 1. On Schedule 1, line 21, enter the excludable portion of the payments as a negative amount with "Notice 2014-7" in the explanation area.

A taxpayer may file a Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, if he received Medicaid waiver payments described in the Notice 2014-7 in an earlier year if the time for claiming a credit or refund is still open. Generally, for a credit or refund, taxpayers must file Form 1040X within 3 years (including extensions) after the date the original return was filed or within 3 years after the date he paid the tax, whichever is later.

In Part III of Form 1040X, the taxpayer should explain that the payments are excludable under Notice 2014-7. Excluding payments described in the notice in an earlier year may affect deductions or credits that were claimed for the earlier year, as well as other tax items for the earlier year.

Adjustments to Income

Adjustments to a taxpayer's income come in the form of certain expenses that reduce a taxpayer's total income dollar-for-dollar. After the adjustments are subtracted from the total income (Form 1040, Line 6), a person's adjusted gross income (AGI) has been calculated and appears on Form 1040, line 7.

Certain adjustments to income are referred to as deductions, but note that these are different from the standard and itemized deductions. Adjustments help determine the taxpayer's <u>adjusted gross income</u>, while the standard or itemized deduction reduces <u>taxable income</u>. See *Volunteer Manual: Deductions* for more information about standard and itemized deductions.

ProSeries will calculate some of the adjustments automatically based on information entered into the worksheets.

Common Adjustments

Review the intake sheet and be sure to ask whether the taxpayer or spouse:

- Had educator expenses
- Received income from self-employment
- Paid a penalty for early withdrawal of savings
- Paid alimony
- Made a contribution to a traditional IRA
- Received income from jury duty that was turned over to an employer
- Paid student loan interest

Adjustments that are Out of Scope

- Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans
- Form 8606, Nondeductible IRAs (eliminated after 2017)

Encourage taxpayers who might be able to benefit from the adjustments that are out of scope to consult a professional tax preparer.

To identify the adjustments to income that a taxpayer can claim, click on the Form 1040, Schedule 1 in ProSeries and reference the lines related to adjustments to income (Form 1040, Schedule 1 lines 23 through 35). To determine the taxpayer's adjustments to income, use the IRS intake sheet and talk with the client.



Health Saving Accounts (HSA) require special certification. Check with the site leader to see if there are HSA certified volunteers at your site. If not, the client can go to Harold Washington Library in March for assistance.

Educator Expenses

(Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 23)

If the taxpayer or spouse was an eligible educator in 2018, they can deduct up to \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both spouses are eligible educators, but not more than \$250 each) of any unreimbursed qualified expenses the client paid or incurred during the tax year.

An individual is an eligible educator if, for the tax year, they meet the following requirements:

- 1. The individual is a kindergarten through grade 12:
 - Teacher
 - Instructor
 - Counselor
 - Principal, or
 - Aide, and
- 2. The individual worked at least 900 hours during a school year in a school that provides elementary or secondary education (kindergarten through grade 12), as determined under state law.

Qualified expenses include expenses paid or incurred for:

- Professional development courses (new in 2017)
- Books
- Supplies
- Equipment (including computer equipment, software, and services), and
- Supplementary materials used by the eligible educator in the classroom.

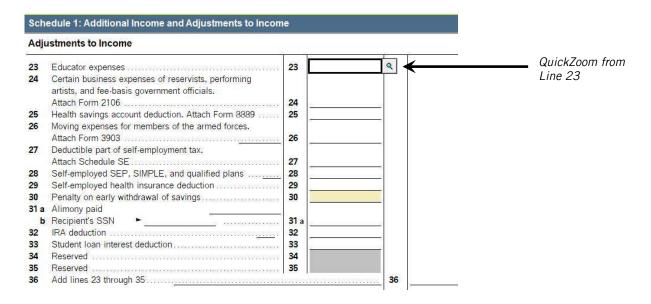
Qualified expenses do not include expenses for home schooling.

Qualified expenses are deductible only to the extent the amount of such expenses exceeds the following amounts received by the taxpayer:

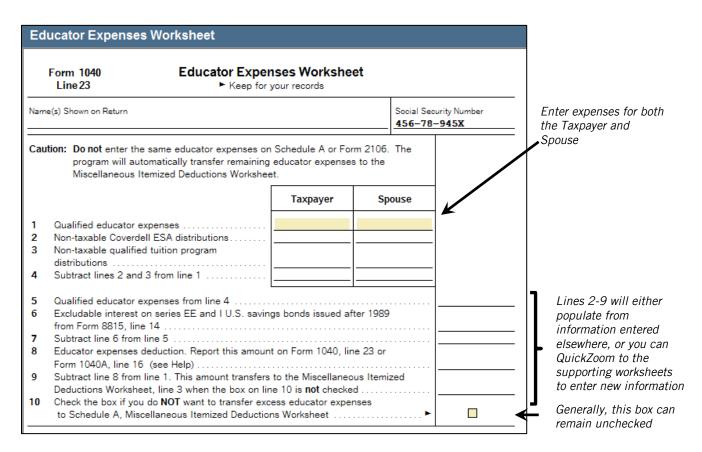
- Interest on qualified U.S. savings bonds excludable from income because the taxpayer paid qualified higher education expenses (i.e. excludable U.S. series EE and I savings bond interest from Form 8815),
- Any distribution from a qualified tuition program excludable from income,
- Any distribution from the taxpayer's Coverdell Education Savings Account excludable from income, and
- Reimbursement that is not listed as income on Form W-2.

Entering Educator Expenses in ProSeries

From Schedule 1, Line 23 of Form 1040, QuickZoom to the Educator Expenses Worksheet:



Enter the Taxpayer and/or Spouse's qualified expenses in the appropriate column.



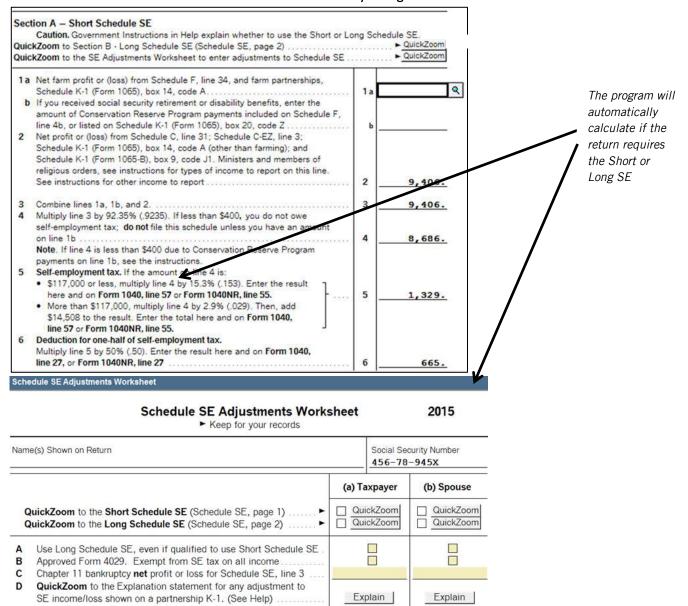
Self Employment Tax

Deductible Part of Self-Employment Tax (Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 27 and Schedule SE)

For self-employed taxpayers, this line will automatically populate after you have completed the Schedule C, which triggers completion of the Schedule SE. Self-employment tax comprises Social Security and Medicare taxes. The employer-equivalent portion of the taxpayer's self-employment tax can be subtracted from total income as an adjustment.

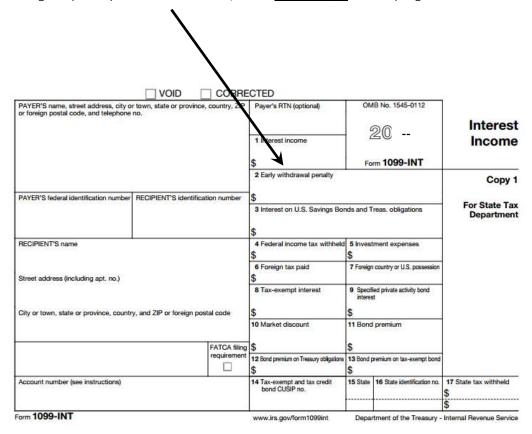
See page 101 for detailed information about Schedule C, and page 109 for more information about Schedule SE.

From Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 27, you can QuickZoom to the Schedule SE Adjustments Worksheet. Scroll to the bottom to view the calculation. You should not make any changes or entries in this worksheet.



Penalty on Early Withdrawal of Savings

Taxpayers will receive an adjustment to income by reporting penalties they paid for withdrawing funds from a deferred-interest account before maturity. Ask if the taxpayer and/or spouse made any early withdrawals during the tax year. If so, ask to see Form 1099-INT (Interest Income) or Form 1099-OID (Original Issue Discount) documenting the penalty in Box 2 – however, this is out of scope for the program.



See Volunteer Manual: Income – Form 1099-INT for more information about interest income.

Alimony Paid

(Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 31a)

Alimony, also referred to as maintenance, is a payment to or for a spouse or former spouse under a divorce or separation instrument. The payments do not have to be made directly to the spouse or former spouse. For divorce decrees finalized before 2019 the person paying alimony can subtract it as an adjustment to income; the person receiving alimony must treat it as income. For divorce decrees finalized in 2019 or later, alimony will no longer be taxable to the recipient or deductible to the payer.

The following rules for alimony apply only to payments under a divorce or separation instrument executed after 1984 and before 2019.

Amounts paid will be considered alimony for federal tax purposes if:

- The payment is to or for a spouse or former spouse under a divorce or separation instrument*
- The taxpayer and spouse or former spouse do not file a joint return with each other
- The taxpayer pays in cash (including checks or money orders)
- The payment is received by (or on behalf of) the spouse or former spouse*
- The divorce or separation instrument does not designate the payment as not alimony
- If legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance, the taxpayer and former spouse are not members of the same household when the taxpayer makes the payment
- The taxpayer has no liability to make any payment (in cash or property) after the death of the recipient spouse or former spouse, and
- The taxpayer's payment is not treated as child support or a property settlement

*For example, payments made to a third party on behalf of the spouse or former spouse for expenses specified in the instrument, such as medical bills, housing costs, and other expenses, can qualify as alimony.

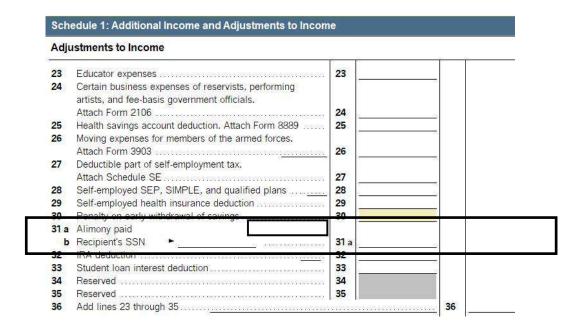
Not all payments under a divorce or separation instrument are alimony. Alimony does not include the following payments under a divorce or separation instrument:

- Child support
- Voluntary payments outside the instrument
- Payments that are the spouse's or former spouse's part of community property income
- Noncash property settlements
- Payments to keep up the payer's property, or
- Use of the payer's property

In addition, voluntary payments to a spouse or former spouse made outside of the terms of the divorce or separation instrument are not alimony. For more details regarding the rules summarized above, refer to Publication 504.

Entering Alimony Paid in ProSeries

Alimony paid is entered directly on Form 1040, Schedule 1, line 31a. Note that the taxpayer **must provide the recipient's Social Security Number** in order to subtract alimony payments as an income adjustment. Failure to include this information can result in a penalty or the deduction being disallowed. See *Volunteer Manual – Income: Alimony Payments Received*, page 142 for information on reporting alimony payments received.



IRA Contributions

(Form 1040, Schedule 1 Line 32)

An IRA (Individual Retirement Arrangement) is a personal savings plan that offers tax advantages for setting aside money for retirement. Some contributions to IRAs may be deducted from income.

There are several different types of IRAs:

- Traditional IRA
- Roth IRA
- Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE IRA) (out of scope of the program)
- Simplified Employee Pension (SEP IRA) (out of scope of the program)

Some key features of a traditional IRA are:

- Taxpayers may be able to deduct some or all of their contributions to the IRA (depending on circumstances)
- Generally, amounts in an IRA, including earnings and gains, are not taxed until they are distributed
- Contributions may be eligible for the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (Form 1040, Schedule 3, Line 51; see *Volunteer Manual Credits: Retirement Savings Contributions*, page 190, for more information about this credit)

Eligibility Requirements for the IRA Contribution Deduction

If the taxpayer or spouse contributed to a traditional IRA during the tax year, determine if the taxpayer (and spouse, if applicable) met these eligibility requirements for taking an IRA contribution deduction:

Types of IRAs	Verify the types of IRAs to which the taxpayer and spouse contributed. <u>Only contributions to traditional IRAs are deductible.</u>
Age Limit	Taxpayers can contribute to a traditional IRA only if they are less than 70½ years of age at the end of the tax year. Check the taxpayer's birthdate (and spouse's if applicable) indicated on the intake and interview sheet. To meet the age requirement for 2018, a taxpayer must have been born on, or after, July 1, 1948.
Compensation	The taxpayer (or his spouse if filing jointly) received taxable compensation (wages, self-employment income, commissions, taxable alimony, nontaxable combat pay, taxable scholarships or fellowships) during the tax year.
Time Limits	Contributions must be made by the due date for filing the return, not including extensions. Verify with the taxpayer and spouse that the contribution(s) were made (or will be made) by the due date of the return.

Possible Limitations on Deduction

If either the taxpayer (or spouse if filing jointly) was covered by an employer retirement plan for any part of the tax year, only a partial (reduced) deduction or no deduction may be available. (The "Retirement Plan" box on Form W-2 should be checked if a person was covered by an employer plan.) A person also is covered by a plan if he was self-employed and had a SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or qualified retirement plan. The deduction also may be affected by the amount of the taxpayer's income, his filing status, and Social Security benefits received. Completion of the IRA Contributions Worksheet in ProSeries will help resolve these potential issues.

Although contributions to a Roth IRA cannot be deducted, the taxpayer may be eligible for the retirement savings contribution credit.

IRA Contribution Limits

There is a limit on the amount taxpayers can contribute to traditional IRAs. The total contribution, meaning the combined contributions to all individual retirement accounts, including Roth and traditional IRAs—cannot be more than the smaller of:

- \$5,500 (\$6,500 if age 50 or older by the end of the tax year), or
- The taxpayer's compensation includible in gross income for the tax year

Taxpayers cannot make IRA contributions that are greater than their compensation for the year. Compensation is generally the income a taxpayer has earned from working; it also includes alimony and certain other forms of income. See Publications 17 and 590 for more information on compensation.

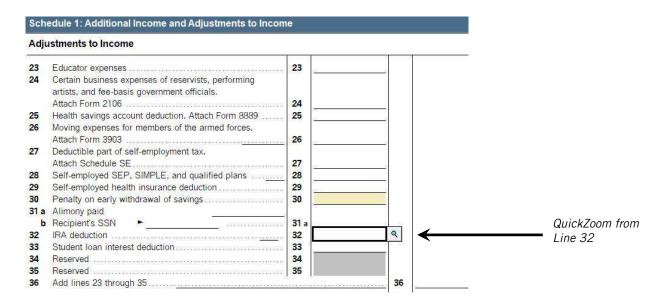
Spousal IRAs are also subject to certain limitations. If married taxpayers file a joint return and one spouse's compensation is less than the other spouse's compensation, the most that can be contributed for the tax year to the spousal IRA is the smaller of the following amounts:

- \$5,500 (\$6,500 if age 50 or older), or
- The total compensation includible in the gross income of both spouses for the tax year reduced by all of the following:
 - Traditional IRA contributions for the spouse with the greater compensation for the tax year, and
 - Any contributions for the tax year to a Roth IRA for the spouse with the greater compensation

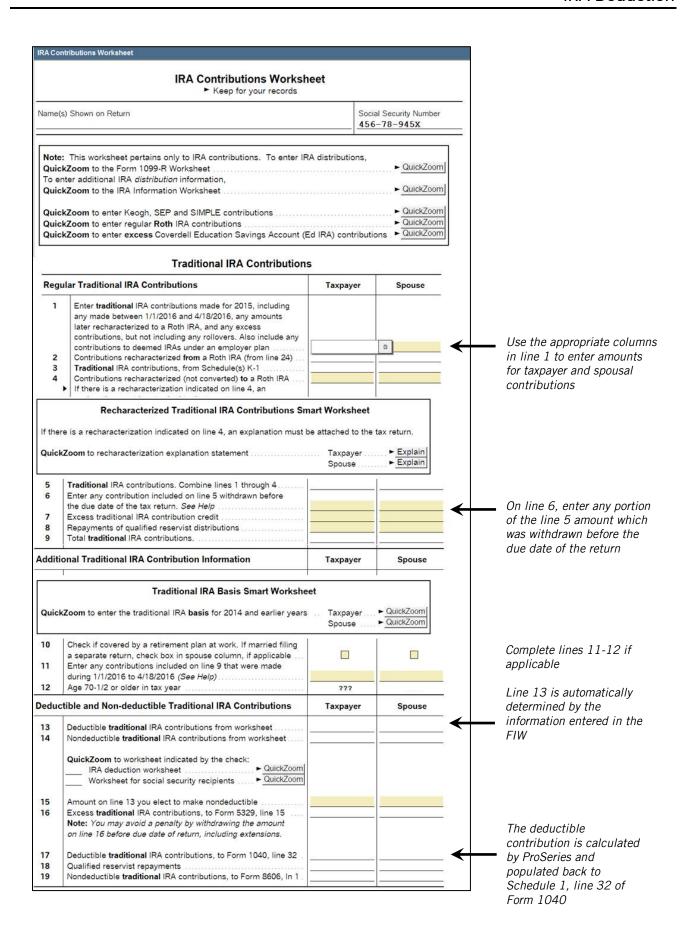
In other words, as long as they file a joint return, married taxpayers' combined IRA contributions cannot exceed their combined compensation, and neither spouse can contribute more than \$5,500 (or \$6,500 for 50 and older) to their own IRA.

Entering IRA Contributions in ProSeries

From Form 1040, Schedule 1 line 32 QuickZoom to the IRA Contributions Worksheet:



Traditional IRA contribution amounts for the taxpayer and spouse are entered on Line 1 of the worksheet:



Form 1098-E: Student Loan Interest Paid

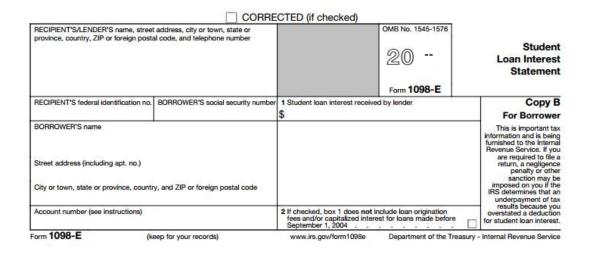
If a taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than the specified limit for the tax year, there is a special deduction allowed for some part of or all interest paid during the tax year on a *qualified student loan*. See the table below and Publication 17 for additional detail.

About the Student Loan Interest Deduction

Maximum Benefit	An <u>adjustment</u> to income worth up to \$2,500
Loan Qualifications	 Taxpayer must be legally liable for the loan, which: must have been taken out by the taxpayer solely to pay qualified education expenses for an eligible student, and cannot be from a related person or made under a qualified employer plan
Student Qualifications	 An eligible student must: be the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or any dependent of the taxpayer when the loan was taken out, or would have been the taxpayer's dependent except the taxpayer was a dependent of someone else, or had gross income over the exemption amount, or filed MFJ. enrolled at least half-time in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential
Time limit on deduction	The taxpayer can deduct interest paid during the remaining period of the student loan.
Phase-out	The amount of the deduction depends on the income level.

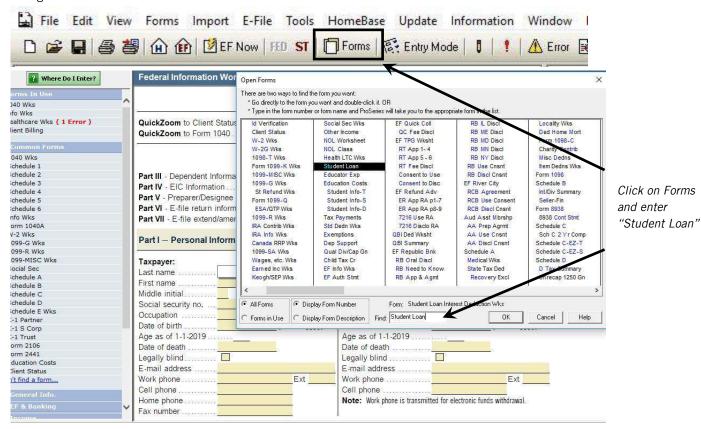
If student loan interest is paid by someone who is not legally liable for it, the payment is treated as received by the person who is legally liable, and the person legally liable is allowed to take the adjustment.

Form 1098-E: Student Loan Interest Statement

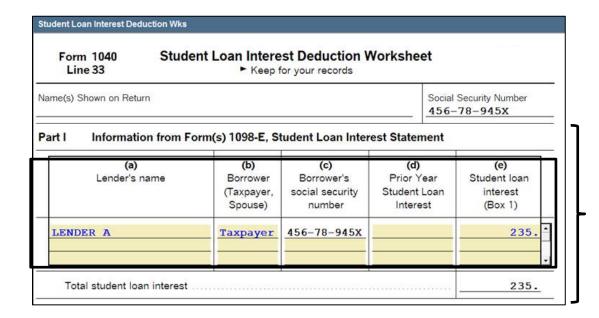


If \$600 or more of interest on a qualified student loan was paid during the year, the client will receive a Form 1098-E. Enter the information from the taxpayer's form into ProSeries in order to take the deduction.

Navigate to the Student Loan Interest Deduction Worksheet in ProSeries:



Enter the information from the 1098-E into the worksheet:



Part	II Computation of Student Loan Interest Deduction		
1	Enter the total interest you paid in 2014 on qualified student loans (see Form 1040 instructions).	1 _	235.
2	Enter the smaller of line 1 or \$2,500	2	235.
3	Modified AGI	3	8,001.
	Note: If line 3 is \$80,000 or more if single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) or \$160,000 or more if married filing jointly, stop here. You cannot take the deduction.		
4	Enter: \$65,000 if single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er);		
	\$130,000 if married filing jointly	4	65,000.
5	Subtract line 4 from line 3. If zero or less, enter -0- here and on line 7, skip		
	line 6, and go on to line 8	5	0.
6	Divide line 5 by \$15,000 or \$30,000 if married filing jointly.		
	Enter the result as a decimal (rounded to at least three places)	6	
7	Multiply line 2 by line 6	7	0.
8	Student loan interest deduction. Subtract line 7 from line 2. Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 33. Do not include this amount in figuring any		
	other deduction on your return (such as on Schedule A, C, E, etc.)	8	235.

Complete Part I of the Worksheet:

Enter the Lender name

Use the dropdown to indicate whether the borrower is the Taxpayer or Spouse

The Social Security number will populate from the FIW once you select Taxpayer or Spouse

Enter the amount from **Box 1** of Form 1098-E

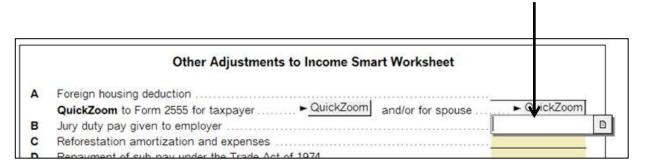
Part II will populate automatically, pulling information from Form 1040 and the information you filled in in Part I

Jury Duty

Jury duty pay given to employer is reported as taxable income in Other income on Form 1040, Schedule 1 Line 21.

However, some employees continue to receive their regular wages when they serve on jury duty even though they are not at work. Sometimes, their jury pay is turned over to their employers.

In this case, the employee still has to report the entire amount of jury duty pay as taxable income, but may claim the amount of jury duty pay given to the employer as an adjustment to income. The amount is shown as a write-in adjustment in the total on Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 36 in ProSeries.



Deductions

On line 8 of the Form 1040, taxpayers may claim either the standard deduction or they may opt to itemize their deductions. The vast majority of Ladder Up clients will benefit from claiming the standard deduction.

Standard Deduction

If the total of all the client's itemized deductions is less than the standard deduction, ProSeries will choose to use the standard deduction. The basic standard deduction is a reduction to adjusted gross income that varies according to filing status.

In some cases, the standard deduction can consist of two parts, the basic standard deduction and additional standard deduction for age or blindness or both. The additional amount for age will be allowed if the taxpayer is **age 65** or older at the end of the tax year. A taxpayer who reaches age 65 on January 1st of any year is deemed to have reached that age on the preceding December 31st. A taxpayer using the Married Filing Separately status can claim the additional standard deduction due to age or blindness for the spouse if the spouse had no income, is not filing a return, and cannot be claimed as someone else's dependent.

The additional amount for **blindness** will be allowed if the taxpayer is blind on the last day of the tax year. If the taxpayer has some vision they are considered legally blind if they can't see better than 20/200 in their better eye with glasses or contact lenses or if their field of vision is 20 degrees or less. In these cases a certified statement from a doctor or registered optometrist will be required in order for a legally-blind taxpayer to claim the additional deduction amount. Ladder Up is not required to see such statements, but can simply ask the client the status of their vision.



If the client is legally blind, mark the box under his personal information in Part I of the Federal Information Worksheet

Certain individuals are not entitled to the standard deduction:

- A married individual whose filing status is Married Filing Separately whose spouse itemizes deductions (unless one spouse qualifies to file as Head of Household)
- An individual who was a nonresident alien or dual status alien during any part of the year (these returns are out of scope)

Standard Deduction Amounts*

*Note that a taxpayer who can be claimed as a dependent on another person's return is limited to a smaller standard deduction (whether or not the taxpayer actually is claimed as a dependent). ProSeries will calculate the smaller standard deduction.

Filing Status	Standard Deduction	Additional Amount
Single	\$12,000	\$1,600
Married Filing Jointly	\$24,000	\$11,300
Married Filing Separately	\$12,000	\$1,300
Head of Household	\$18,000	\$1,600
Qualifying Widow(er)	\$18,000	\$1,300

Itemized Deductions

A client should itemize deductions if his allowable itemized deductions total more than his standard deduction. Itemized deductions are certain expenses that a taxpayer can use to lower his taxable income.

Deductions that can be itemized include (taxpayer must have a receipt or form of proof for each in the event of an audit):

- Medical and dental expenses (if in excess of 7.5% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income)
- State and local income taxes and Real estate taxes and personal property taxes capped at \$10,000
- Charitable contributions
- Home mortgage and investment interest



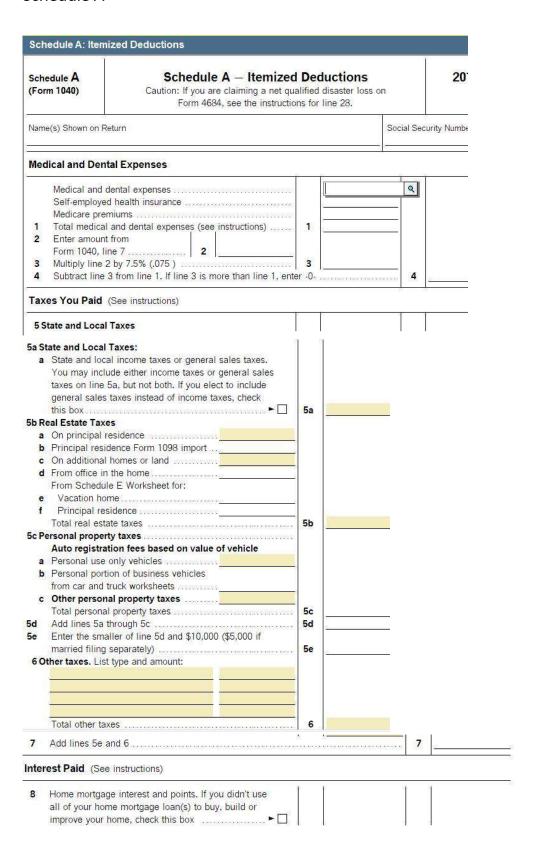
Itemized Deductions that are <u>out-of-scope:</u>

- Casualty in Presidentially declared disaster areas
- Investment interest
- Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats and Airplanes
- Taxpayers affected by limits on charitable deductions
- Taxpayers that file Form 8283 to report noncash contributions of more than \$500
- If the taxpayer is donating property that was previously depreciated
- If the taxpayer is donating capital gain property

Itemized deductions and accompanying worksheets are entered on Schedule A:

- Mortgage Interest and Points Smart Worksheet
- Other Points Smart Worksheet
- Qualified Mortgage Insurance Premiums Smart Worksheet
- Cash Contributions Smart Worksheet
- Noncash Contributions Smart Worksheet

Schedule A



Schedule A, Cont.

Home mortgage interest If paid to the person from home, enter that person and address:	om whom you bought	the number	ВЬ			
Recipient's Name				Address		
and someone else wer her person's name and Form 1098 Recipie	address:	gage and the othe	60	dress	193, ente	er .
	Othe	er Points Smar		eet to deduct remai	ning po	ints this year
Lender's Name	Points Paid on Refinance	Date of Refinance	Loan Length (years)	De <mark>d</mark> uctible Points Remaining	*	Points Deductible Each Year

Schedule A, Cont.

1 Principal Residence - Enter the premiums paid in 2018 for qualified mortgage insurance for a contract entered into after 2006 not from Form 1098 import 2 Qualified mortgage insurance premiums from Form 1098 import 3 From office in the home. 4 Qualified mortgage insurance premiums from Schedule E Worksheet. 5 Total qualified mortgage insurance premiums Amount from Form 1040, line 38. \$100,000 (\$50,000 if married filing separately) Is the amount on Line B more than the amount on line C? No. The deduction is not limited. The amount from line A above goes on Schedule A, line 13. Yes. Line C subtracted from line B. If the result is not a multiple of \$1,000 (\$500 if married filing separately), it is increased to the next multiple of \$1,000 (\$500 if married filing separately). Line D divided by \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married filing separately). The result is a decimal. If the result is 1.0 or more then 1.0. Line A multiplied by line E		Qualified Mortgage Insurance Premiums Smart Worksheet
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Name of charity	Туре	Amount	
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 		

11	Gifts by cash or check. For gift \$250 or more see instr	11		
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below this smart worksheet.

Schedule A, Cont.

Charity and Donation Info	rmation Amo
Charity Name	
Address .	*
Address . City S Description	State . ZIP
Description	
Property type	
Date donated Date acqu	ired
How acquired Cost or ad	lj basis
Fair market value . How value	ed
Charity Name	
Address .	*
City S	State .
Description	
Property type	
Date donated Date acqu	ired
How acquired Cost or ad	lj basis
air market value . How value	ed ,
	8
Other than by cash or check. For gift \$250 or more instructions. You must attach Form 8283 if over \$ Carryover from prior year	500 12 13
	12 1
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Medical and Dental Expenses

(Schedule A)

Medical and dental expenses are deductible only if a taxpayer itemizes his deductions. Further, a taxpayer can deduct only the amount of unreimbursed qualified medical and dental expenses that **exceeds 7.5% percent of** his adjusted gross income

Qualified medical and dental expenses paid by the taxpayer during the tax year can be included for:

- The taxpayer
- The taxpayer's spouse
- Dependents (must have qualified as dependents at the time the medical services were provided or at the time the expenses were paid)

If a child of divorced or separated parents is claimed as a dependent on either parent's return, each parent may deduct the medical expenses they individually paid for the child. Refer to Publication 17 for details.

In addition to the dependents claimed on the taxpayer's return, dependents for purposes of this deduction include:

- (i) a child of the taxpayer not claimed as a dependent because of the rules for children of divorced or separated parents,
- (ii) any person the taxpayer could have claimed as a dependent on his return, and
- (iii) any person the taxpayer could have claimed as a dependent except that the taxpayer (or the taxpayer's spouse if filing jointly) can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

Qualified medical and dental care expenses include:

- Payments for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, and
- Payments for treatments affecting any structure or function of the body.

Qualified expenses include a broad variety of expenses, including:

- Certain travel and lodging expenses, lodging expenses are limited to \$50 per person per day, and
- Certain health, dental and long-term care insurance premiums.

For 2018, the standard mileage rate for medical purposes is 18 cents per mile driven. For a detailed discussion of qualified expenses, see the instructions for Schedule A and Publication 502.

Be sure the expenses were not paid with pre-tax dollars or reimbursed by an insurance company.

Taxes You Paid

(Schedule A)

State and Local Income Taxes

State and local income taxes include withheld taxes, estimated tax payments, and other tax payments such as a prior-year refund of a state or local income tax applied to the taxpayer's state or local income taxes for the current year.

Note: For 2018 State and Local and Foreign Real Property Taxes, State and Local Personal Property Taxes, and State, Local and Foreign Income Taxes are limited to a combined \$10,000.

Foreign Income Taxes

Generally, income taxes paid to a foreign country can be taken as either:

- An itemized deduction on line 8 of Schedule A, which flows to Form 1040, line 8 or
- A credit against U.S. income tax on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48

Ladder Up clients will generally derive greater benefit by opting to take the credit on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48. See page 186 for more information about the foreign tax credit.

State, Local, and Foreign Real Estate Taxes

State, local, and foreign real estate taxes that are based on the assessed value of the taxpayer's real property, such as the taxpayer's house or land, are deductible. Real estate taxes are generally reported on Form 1098, Mortgage Interest Statement, or a similar statement from the mortgage holder. More information about Form 1098 can be found on page 173.

If the taxes are not paid through the mortgage company (escrow), taxpayers should have a record of what was paid during the year. Some real estate taxes are not deductible, including:

- Taxes for local benefits,
- Taxes for improvements to property,
- Services,
- Transfer and stamp taxes,
- Rent increases due to higher real estate taxes, and
- Homeowner association fees.

State and Local Personal Property Taxes

Deductible personal property taxes are those based on the value of personal property such as a boat or a car. The tax must be charged on a yearly basis, even if it is collected more than or less than once a year.

Nondeductible Interest

Interest that cannot be deducted includes:

- Interest on car loans where the car is used for nonbusiness purposes
- Interest on other personal loans
- Credit card investigation fees

- Loan fees for services needed to get a loan
- Interest on a debt the taxpayer is not legally obligated to pay
- Finance charges for nonbusiness credit card purchases

Home Mortgage Interest

(Schedule A)

A home mortgage is any loan that is secured by the taxpayer's main home or second home. It includes first and second mortgages, home equity loans, and refinanced mortgages. If all of a taxpayer's mortgage fits into one or more of the following three categories at all times during the year, the taxpayer can deduct all of the interest on those mortgages:

- 1. Mortgages you took out on or before October 13, 1987 (called grandfathered debt).
- 2. Mortgages you took out after October 13, 1987 but before December 17, 2017, to buy, build, or improve your home (called home acquisition debt), but only if throughout 2018 these mortgages plus any grandfathered debt totaled \$1 million or less (\$500,000 or less if married filing separately).
- 3. Mortgages you took out after December 17, 2017 to buy, build, or improve your home (called home acquisition debt), but only if these mortgages plus any grandfathered debt totaled \$750,000 or less, (\$350,000 or less if married filing separately).

Note that beginning in 2018 interest on home equity loans cannot be deducted unless the loan is home acquisition debt as defined above.

The dollar limits for the second and third categories apply to the combined mortgages on the taxpayer's main home and second home. If the taxpayer's mortgages do not fit into one or more of the three categories, see Publication 936 to determine how much can be deducted.

Generally, homeowners receive Form 1098, Mortgage Interest Statement, which shows the deductible amount of home mortgage interest paid by the taxpayers. Only taxpayers who are legally liable for the debt can deduct the interest in the year it is paid.

Remember that taxpayers may have more than one mortgage or may have refinanced during the year and may have multiple Mortgage Interest Statements.

Home Mortgage Points

The term "points" is used to describe certain charges paid, or treated as paid, by a borrower to obtain a home mortgage. Points also may be called loan origination fees, maximum loan charges, premium charges, loan discount points, or prepaid interest. Points paid only for the use of money are considered interest and generally can be deducted over the life of the loan subject to certain tests. This amount is reported on Form 1098 (Box 6).

Points paid to refinance a mortgage are generally not deductible in full the year the taxpayer paid them, unless the points are paid in connection with the improvement of a main home and certain conditions are met. See Publication 936 for more details regarding the deductibility of points.

Beware of certain charges that some lenders call "points." Points paid for specific services, such as appraisal fees, preparation fees, VA funding fees, or notary fees, are not interest and are not deductible.

Form 1098: Mortgage Interest Statement

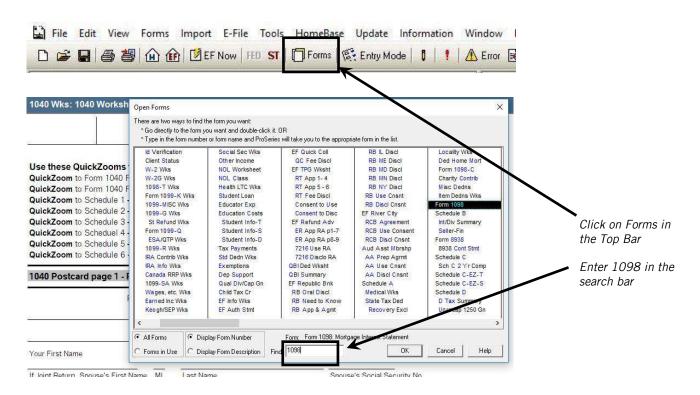
Mortgage Interest Statement	OMB No. 1545-0901 20 (Rev. July 2016) Form 1098	"Caution: The amount shown may not be fully deductible by you. Limits based on the loan amount and the cost and value of the secured properly may apply. Also, you may only deduct interest to the extent if was incurred by you, actually paid by you, and not reimbursed by another person. 1 Mortgage interest received fr		RECIPIENT'S/LENDER'S name, stra province, country, ZIP or foreign po
Copy B For Paver/	om payer(a) borroller(b)	\$		
Borrower The information in boxes 1 through 9 is important tax information and is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other	3 Mortgage origination date	2 Outstanding mortgage principal as of 1/1/2016 \$	PAYER'S/BORROWER'S taxpayer identification no.	RECIPIENT'S/LENDER'S federal dentification number
	5 Mortgage insurance premiums	4 Refund of overpaid interest \$		PAYER'S/BORROWER'S name
	rincipal residence	6 Points paid on purchase of p		ATEN STOURNOWER STIBILIE
sanction may be imposed on you if the IRS determines that an underpayment of tax results because you overstated a deduction		7 Is address of property securi PAYER'S/BORROWER'S addr If Yes, box is checked If No, see box 8 or 9, below		Street address (including apt. no.)
for this mortgage interest or for these points, reported in boxes 1 and 6; or	mortgage	8 Address of property securing	ntry, and ZIP or foreign postal code	Dity or town, state or province, cou
because you didn't report the refund of interest				0 Other
(box 4); or because you claimed a non-deductible item.	e has no address, below is the	9 If property securing mortgag description of the property		Account number (see instructions)

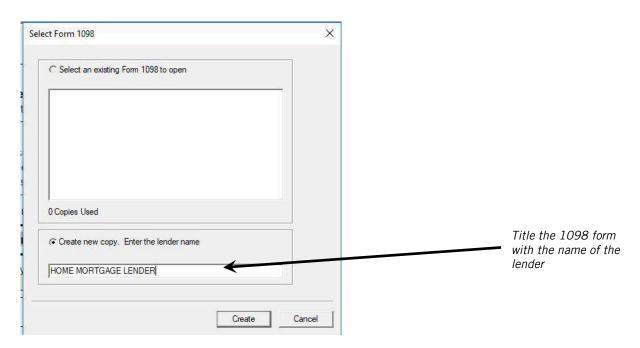


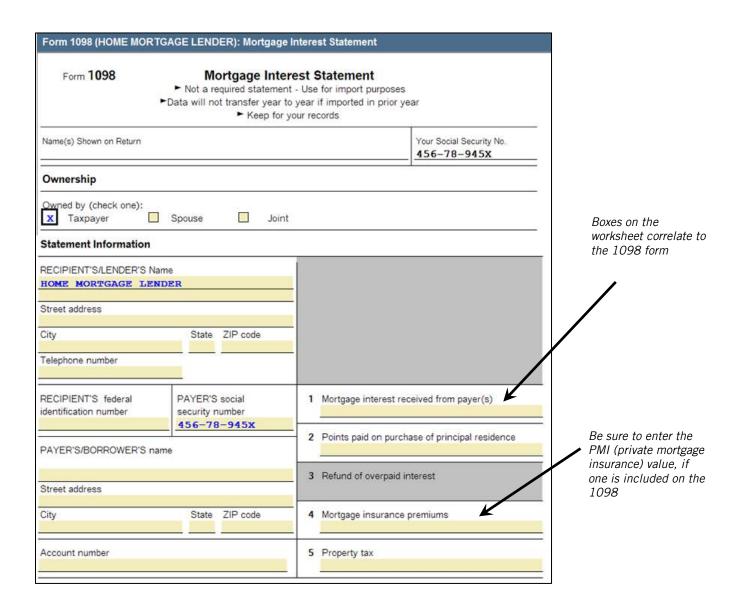
More than one borrower. If you and at least one other person (other than your spouse if you file a joint return) were liable for and paid interest on a mortgage that was for your home, and the other person received a Form 1098 showing the interest that was paid during the year, attach a statement to your return explaining this. Show how much of the interest each of you paid, and give the name and address of the person who received the form. Deduct your share of the interest on Schedule A (Form 1040), line 11, and print "See attached" next to the line. Also, deduct your share of any qualified mortgage insurance premiums on Schedule A (Form 1040), line 13.

Similarly, if you are the payer of record on a mortgage on which there are other borrowers entitled to a deduction for the interest shown on the Form 1098 you received, deduct only your share of the interest on Schedule A (Form 1040), line 10. Let each of the other borrowers know what his or her share is.

Mortgage Interest Form



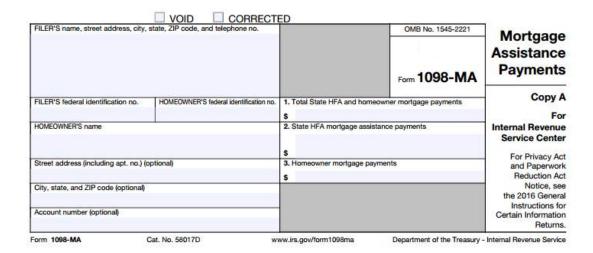






Once you are done with the worksheet, the information will populate Schedule A.

Form 1098-MA: Mortgage Assistance Payments



Box 1 Shows total payments made to the mortgage servicer through the program

Box 2 Shows the amount of Box 1 contributed by the state

Box 3 Shows the amount that the borrower sent to the state for forwarding to the mortgage servicer.

All amounts reported include both principal and interest.

This informational form is received by borrowers who received mortgage payment assistance from a state "hardest hit" program. There is no ProSeries form for entering the data. The amounts in Box 2 are not treated as taxable income to the taxpayer since they are a form of public assistance. The taxpayer's deduction for mortgage interest and real estate taxes is the actual amount paid for such items by the taxpayer if the taxpayer knows them. If the taxpayer qualifies to deduct the full amount of their real estate taxes and interest, then they may also be eligible to use a "safe harbor" calculation if it produces a higher deduction. The "safe harbor" is the sum of all payments made by the taxpayer either to the state housing authority (Block 3) or the mortgage servicer, but not more than the sum of the amounts shown in Box 1 of Form 1098 plus the amount of any real estate taxes shown on Form 1098. Note that the Form 1098 will include payments made by both the taxpayer and the state, so extra care needs to be applied to determine the deductible portion as described in this section.

Gifts to Charity

(Schedule A)

A charitable contribution is a donation or gift to a qualified charitable organization. Taxpayers must itemize deductions to be able to deduct a charitable contribution.

Qualified Charitable Organizations Generally Include:

- Organizations operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary purposes
- Organizations that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals
- Organizations that foster national or international amateur sports competition if they do not provide athletic facilities or equipment
- War Veterans' organizations
- Certain nonprofit cemetery companies and corporations
- The United States, a state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. possession (including Puerto Rico), a political subdivision of a state or U.S. possession, an Indian tribal government or any of its subdivisions that perform substantial government functions

Deductible items include:

- Monetary donations
- Dues, fees, and assessments paid to qualified charitable organizations in excess of the value received
- Fair market value of used clothing and household items in good condition
- Cost and upkeep of uniforms that have no general use, but must be worn while performing donated services to a qualified charitable organization
- Unreimbursed transportation expenses and other travel that relate directly to the services the taxpayer provided for the qualified charitable organization
- Part of a contribution above the fair market value for items received such as merchandise and tickets to charity balls or sporting events
- Transportation expenses, including bus fare, parking fees, tolls, and either the cost of gas and oil or the standard mileage deduction may be taken. See Publication 4012 for the standard mileage deduction rate.

Potential deduction limitations include (see Publication 526 for more details);

- If the taxpayer made a gift to a qualified charitable organization and received a benefit in return, such as food, entertainment, or merchandise, the taxpayer generally can deduct only the amount of the gift in excess of the value of the benefit received.
- If the taxpayer's total cash charitable contributions for the year are greater than 60% of his adjusted gross income, his charitable deduction may be limited.

Recordkeeping

Recordkeeping requirements for charitable contributions of less than \$250 are summarized below. See Publication 526 for recordkeeping requirements for larger contributions.

Noncash contributions less than \$250:

Keep receipts or other written communication from the organization, or the taxpayer's own reliable written records for each item, showing:

- Name and address of the charitable organization
- Date and location of the contribution
- Reasonably detailed description of the donated property
- Fair market value of the donated property and how the value was determined



Taxpayers with more than \$500 in total noncash contributions must file Form 8283 and should be referred to a professional tax preparer. This is up to the client if they would like to forgo the additional deductions based on the cost of paid preparation and the overall reduction of tax liability.

Cash contributions:

Taxpayers cannot deduct a cash contribution, regardless of the amount, unless one of the following records of the contribution is kept:

- A bank record, such as a canceled check, a copy of the canceled check, or a bank statement containing the name of the charity, the date, and the amount
- A written communication from the charity, which includes the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and amount of the contribution

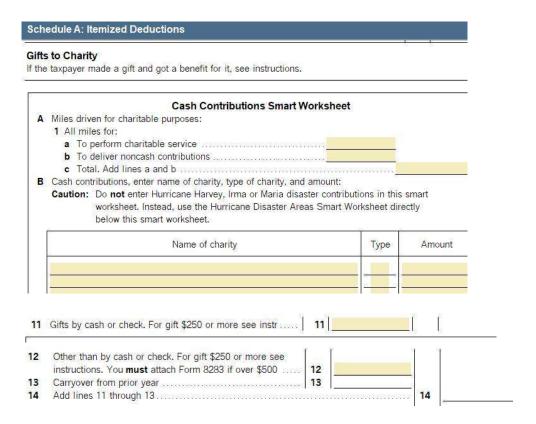
For unreimbursed expenses related to donated services, the taxpayer must have:

- Adequate records of the expenses
- Written acknowledgment from the organization and a description of the taxpayer's services

Only out-of-pocket expenses that are directly related to the donated services can be deducted. The value of time or services donated cannot be deducted.

Entering Gifts to Charity in ProSeries

Navigate to Schedule A from the Forms Bar on the left, and scroll down to the Gifts to Charity section, Lines 11-14.



- Monetary donations made by cash, check, or credit card can be entered directly on Line 11. You can also use the
 Cash Contributions Smart Worksheet just above Line 11 in ProSeries to enter several different donations and
 ProSeries will automatically populate Line 16 with the total cash donations.
- The value of gifts other than by cash or check (e.g., used clothing, furniture, etc.) is entered directly on **Line 12**, or use the Noncash Contributions Smart Worksheet just above Line 17 in ProSeries.
- The total of all Gifts to Charity will automatically be calculated and populate Line 14.

Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions

Deductions not subject to the 2% limit are reported on line 16 of Schedule A. Examples include (see Publications 17 and 529 for more):

- Gambling losses to the extent of gambling winnings (taxpayers must have kept a record of their losses) and is still available in 2018.
- Work-related expenses for individuals with a disability that enable them to work, such as attendant care services at their workplace



Note: For 2018 Most Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions have been suspended and are not deductible. This means that items such as union dues and uniforms are no longer deductible.



Nondeductible Miscellaneous Expenses

The types of miscellaneous expenses that are not deductible include (see Publications 17 and 529 for more):

- Commuting expenses
- Political contributions
- The cost of entertaining friends

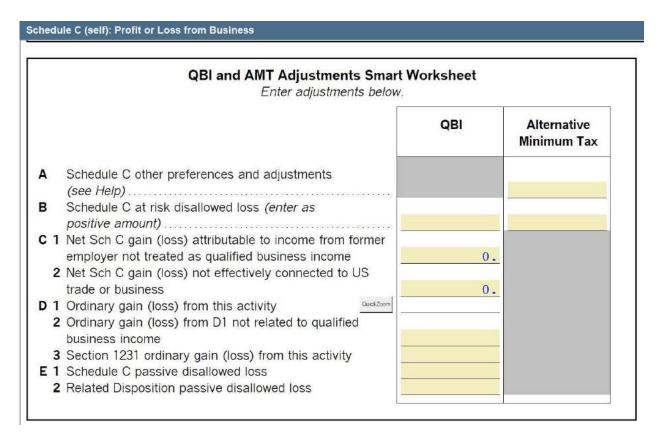
- Lost or misplaced cash or property
- Travel as a form of education

Qualified Business Income Deduction

For **2018** there is a new deduction called the Qualified Business Income Deduction (QBI) for self-employed individuals. For Ladder Up clients this deduction is typically equal to the lesser of 20% of self-employment income or 20% of taxable income before the deduction. The deduction is *in addition to* the standard deduction or the itemized deduction. By reducing federal taxable income, it may reduce federal income taxes, but will not reduce self-employment taxes or Illinois income taxes. The deduction will appear on Form 1040 line 9.

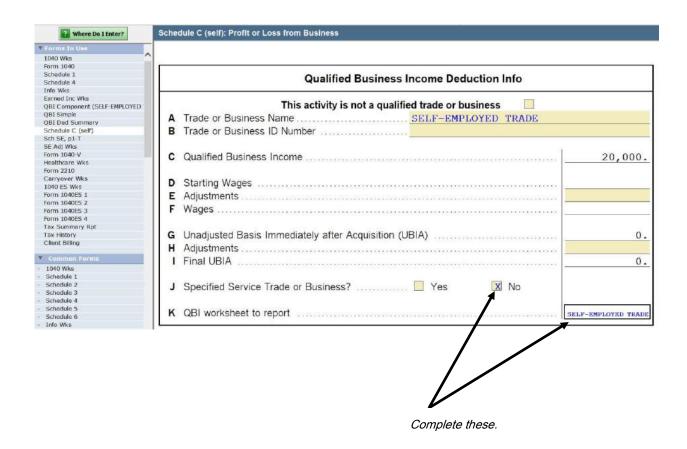
Once the relevant business income and expenses have been entered on the Schedule C, there will be up to four errors toward the bottom of the Schedule C. Those errors must be cleared in order for ProSeries to compute the QBI:

• Ladder Up clients will typically not have any of their Schedule C income which cannot be used for the QBI, so lines C1 and C2 should typically be zero.



• Volunteers must answer the question whether the taxpayer's Schedule C is for a Specified Service Trade or Business (services in the fields of health, law, engineering...). For higher-income taxpayers, the QBI may be reduced or eliminated for a Specified Service Trade or Business. However, the instructions state "If your taxable income is less than \$157,000 (\$315,000 if married filing jointly), your specified service trade or business is treated as a qualified trade or business". Therefore, the question about whether this is a Specified Trade or Business can typically be answered "no" for Ladder Up clients and the tax return will be correct. (While not directly relevant to VITA clients, the instructions to line 9 of Form 1040 provide additional information about the topic).

• Also, a new QBI Component Worksheet must be created where the eligible QBI expenses are computed (simply create the worksheet by naming it the same as the taxpayer's business name).



You can check line 9 of Form 1040 to see that the deduction was calculated. Remember that if taxable income before the credit is zero, there will be no deduction.

Credits

Tax credits are dollar-for-dollar reductions that decrease a taxpayer's tax liability. There are two types of tax credits – nonrefundable and refundable.

Common Nonrefundable Credits

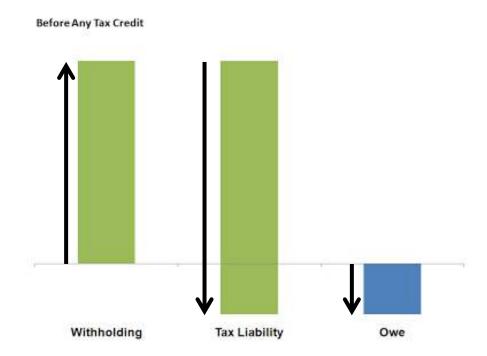
- Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- Retirement Savings Contribution Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Credit for Other Dependents
- Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled
- Education Credits (American Opportunity Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit) described in the Volunteer
 Manual Credits: Postsecondary Education Expenses section starting on page 205.

Common Refundable Credits

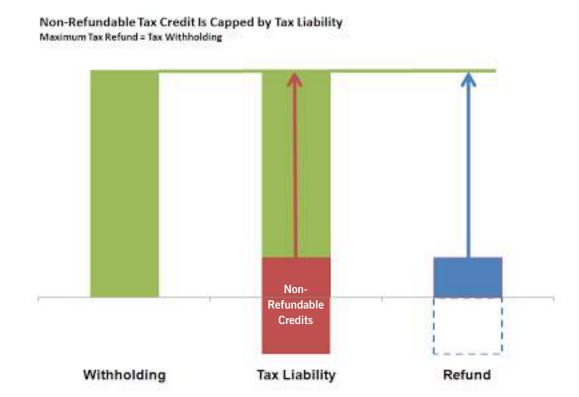
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Additional Child Tax Credit
- Health Premium Tax Credit

Examples

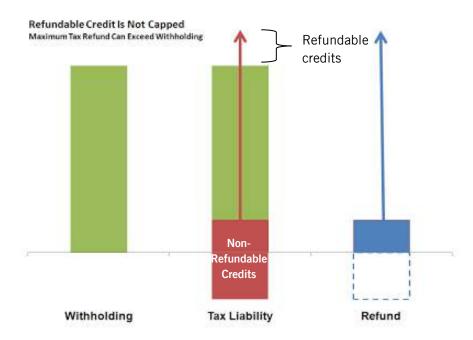
Jill has a tax liability of \$400, however, she qualified for a Child Tax Credit of \$500. The Child Tax Credit is non-refundable therefore all of Jill's tax liability is wiped out but she will not be due a refund. Conversely, if Jill qualifies for \$500 in the Child Tax Credit and \$500 in the Earned Income Credit she will received a \$500 refund since the Earned Income Credit is refundable.



When tax liability (tax owed) exceeds tax withholding (tax paid) the taxpayer will still owe taxes at the time of filing.



However, after non-refundable tax credits are applied, the taxpayer will get a small refund instead of owing taxes. The non-refundable tax credits are limited by the tax liability. In other words, nonrefundable credits can only reduce the amount of tax owed. The best a person can do with non-refundable tax credits is eliminate all of their tax liability and get all of the withholding back.



However, refundable tax credits are not capped by one's tax liability, as shown in this third chart. The refund can exceed the withholding.

Foreign Tax Credit

Taxpayers who receive Form 1099-INT or Form 1099-DIV may have amounts reported in Box 6, indicating that foreign taxes have been paid on their behalf by the issuer of the document.

Generally, income taxes paid to a foreign country can be taken as:

- An itemized deduction on line 6 of Schedule A and entered on Form 1040, line 8, or
- A nonrefundable credit against U.S. income tax on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48



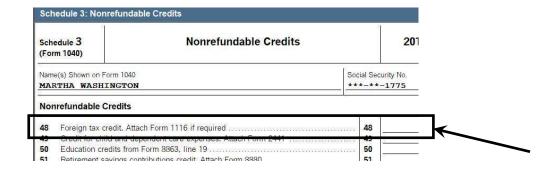
Ladder Up clients will generally derive greater benefit by opting to take the credit on federal Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48.

A taxpayer can elect to report foreign tax on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48, without filing Form 1116 as long as the following conditions are met:

- All of the gross foreign source income was from interest and dividends and all of that income and the foreign tax paid on it were reported on Form 1099-INT, Form 1099-DIV, or Schedule K-1 (or substitute statement).
- He is not filing Form 4563 or excluding income from sources within Puerto Rico.
- The total of his foreign taxes was not more than \$300 (not more than \$600 if married filing jointly).
- All of the foreign taxes were:
 - Legally owed and not eligible for a refund
 - Paid to countries that are recognized by the United States and do not support terrorism

If the taxpayer meets all of the above requirements, enter directly on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48, the smaller of:

- (a) the total foreign taxes paid, or
- (b) the amount on Form 1040, line 11





Be sure to enter all other income, expenses, adjustments, and credits before comparing line 11 to the foreign taxes paid. If the taxpayer has postsecondary education expenses, relaunch the optimizer <u>after</u> entering the foreign tax credit on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48.

If the taxpayer does not elect to or is not eligible to report foreign tax on Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 48, he must complete Form 1116. Form 1116 is <u>out-of-scope</u> for the VITA program. Such taxpayers should be referred to a professional preparer.

Child and Dependent Care Expenses

The tax credit for child and dependent care expenses allows taxpayers to claim a credit for expenses paid for the care of <u>children under age 13</u> for whom a dependency exemption can be claimed when the expenses were incurred.*

The credit can range from 20% to 35% of a taxpayer's qualifying child or dependent care expenses. The percentage is based on the taxpayer's earned income and adjusted gross income. The amount of the credit cannot be more than the amount of income tax on the return; that is, it can reduce an individual's tax to \$0, but it cannot result in a refund. Form 2441 must be attached to the tax return to claim this nonrefundable credit.

Who is a qualifying person:

- A qualifying child who was under the age of 13 when the expenses were incurred and for whom a dependency exemption can be claimed*
- Any person who was incapable of self-care whom the taxpayer can claim as a dependent or could have claimed as a dependent except that the person had gross income of more than \$4,000 or filed a joint return or that the taxpayer or spouse, if married jointly, could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's 2018 return.
- A spouse who was physically or mentally incapable of self-care.
- The qualifying person must live with the taxpayer for more than ½ the year.
- Incapable of self-care Cannot dress, clean, or feed themselves because of physical or mental problems. Also persons who must have constant attention to prevent them from injuring themselves or others.

*See Publication 17, *Child and Dependent Care Credit*, for special rules regarding divorced or separated parents or parents who live apart.

Qualified work-related expenses

- Expenses must be paid for the care of the qualifying person to allow the taxpayer and spouse, if married, to work or look for work
- The care includes the cost of services for the qualifying person's well-being and protection
- Expenses to attend Kindergarten or a higher grade are not an expense for care
- Expenses for summer day-camp qualify, but those for overnight camp do not



Only the custodial parent may claim the child and dependent care credit even if the child is being claimed as a dependent by the non-custodial parent under the rules for divorced and separated parents.

Caution: If Dependent Care Benefits are listed in Box 10 of a W-2, then the taxpayer MUST complete Form 2441. If Form 2441 is not completed, the Box 10 amount is entered on Line 1 of the 1040 as taxable income.

Note: If your qualifying child turned 13 during the tax year, your qualifying expenses include the amounts incurred for the child while under 13 when the care was provided.

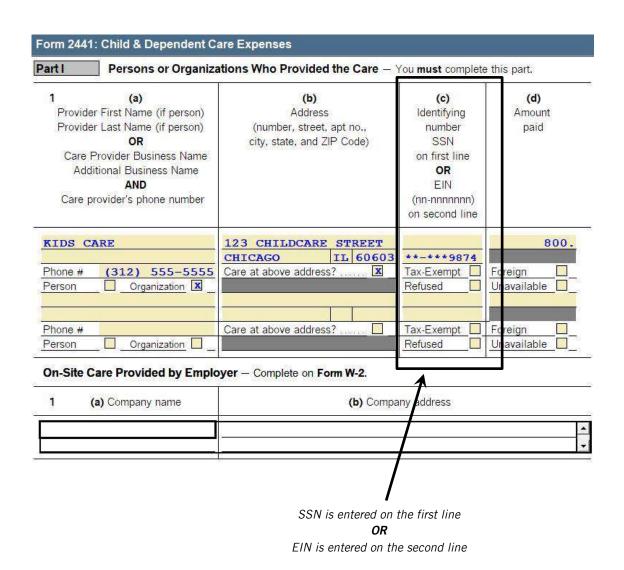


Note: You will need to fill in the expense dollar amounts in <u>two places in ProSeries</u>:

- 1. Totals for each child or dependent in Part III of the Federal Information Worksheet see *Volunteer Manual FIW Dependents,* page 70.
- 2. Child & Dependent Care Expense Worksheet for Form 2441 see next page

Child and Dependent Care Expenses Worksheet

- Fill in the name of the daycare provider, the SSN/EIN of the provider, and the total amount paid.
- The daycare provider must provide either an SSN or an EIN. Exceptions are listed below, but do not typically apply to TAP clients:
 - If the day care provider is a tax-exempt organization, check the "Tax-Exempt" box in column (c) and "TAXEXEMPT" will print in the EIN field.
 - If the taxpayer is living abroad and the provider does not have or is not required to obtain a U.S. TIN, check the "Foreign" box in column (d). Tax returns in this situation are <u>out of scope</u>.
- Part 2 of Form 2441 will automatically populate; complete part 3 if necessary.





The care provider must report the income if the taxpayer is reporting the expense. If the provider is <u>not</u> going to report the income, the taxpayer cannot claim the credit.

Retirement Savings Contributions

If a taxpayer makes eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), he may be able to claim a tax credit. Plans and contributions that qualify are:

- Traditional or Roth IRA contributions (other than rollover contributions)
- Elective deferrals to a 401(k) or 403(b) plan (including designated Roth contributions), a governmental 457 plan, SEP, or SIMPLE plan
- Voluntary employee contributions to a qualified retirement plan as defined in section 4974(c) (including the federal Thrift Savings Plan), or
- Contributions to a 501(c)(18)(D) plan

The amount of the credit is based on both the contributions made and the taxpayer's credit rate. The credit can be as low as 10% or as high as 50% of a maximum annual contribution of \$2,000 per person depending on filing status and AGI. The lower the income, the higher the credit rate; the credit rate also depends on filing status. Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, is used to determine the rate and amount of this nonrefundable credit.

If the taxpayer or spouse made contributions to an IRA, enter the information on the IRA Contributions Worksheet. Traditional IRA contributions are entered on page 1 of the worksheet, described starting on page 157. Roth IRA contributions are made on page 2 of the worksheet, shown below.

Remember to review the W-2

Look at the taxpayer's Form W-2. An entry in Box 12 or an "x" in the Retirement Plan box is an indicator that the taxpayer may be eligible for the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit. Read more about Form W-2 starting on page 86.

Did the taxpayer receive a Form 5498?

If the taxpayer or spouse made a contribution to an IRA, he should receive a Form 5498 from the trustee or issuer of the account. Traditional IRA contributions may also qualify for an income adjustment. Read more about this deduction under *Volunteer Manual – Adjustments to Income: IRA Contribution*, starting on pages 157.

Retirement Savings Contributions Credit – Screening Sheet

To determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, review the return information and ask the taxpayer the following:

step 1	Did you make a voluntary contribution or deferral to an IRA or other qualified plan for 2018?	YES – Go to Step 2 NO – Not qualified for credit
step	Is AGI \$31,500 or less (\$47,250 if head of household, \$63,000 if married filing jointly)?	YES – Go to Step 3 NO – Not qualified for credit
step	Were you born before January 2, 2001?	YES – Go to Step 4 NO – Not qualified for credit
step 4	Are you being claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return for 2018?	YES – Not qualified for credit NO – Go to Step 5
step	Were you a full-time student ^e during 2018?	YES – Not qualified for credit NO – Qualified for credit

Footnotes

¹ Plans that qualify are listed in the Other Credits chapter of Publication 17. Answer yes if the taxpayer will make a qualifying IRA contribution for tax year 2018 by the due date of the return.

²You were a student if during any part of 5 calendar months of 2018 you:

- Were enrolled as a full-time student at a school, or
- Took a full-time, on-farm training course given by a school or a state, county, or local government agency.

A school includes technical, trade and mechanical schools. It does not include on-the job training courses, correspondence schools, or schools offering courses only through the Internet.

Important Reminders for Retirement Savings Contributions Credit

- Be sure to look at the taxpayer's Form(s) W-2. An entry in box 12 or an "X" in the Retirement box is an indicator
 that the taxpayer may be eligible for this credit. A full description of all codes used in box 12 can be found in
 Instructions for Forms W-2 and W-3.
- An entry in box 14 on the Form W-2 may also indicate a contribution to a state retirement system. In TaxSlayer,
 if the contribution qualifies, from the drop down menu in Box 14 of Form W-2, select retirement (not in Box 12)
 carry to Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions.



If these are treated as employer contributions they aren't eligible for the credit. See Form W-2 Instructions.

- When using tax software, remember to key in all entries as they appear on the Form W-2.
- A contribution to a Traditional or Roth IRA qualifies for this credit, but may not appear on any taxpayer document.
 Remember to review the expenses section on page 2 of the Form 13614-C, Intake/Interview & Quality Review
 Sheet, and ask taxpayers if they made any IRA contributions.
- Some distributions reduce the eligible contributions for this credit. In addition to distributions for the current year
 as shown on Forms 1099-R, be sure to ask about distributions in the prior two years and up to the due date of
 the return.
- · See the note on the next page for a list of distributions that don't reduce the eligible contributions for this credit.
- . Form 8880 is used to claim this credit.
- If taxpayer (or spouse if MFJ) is a full-time student, be sure to mark it in the Personal Information Section in the software. This credit is not available to full-time students.

Spouse

Taxpayer

IRA Contributions Worksheet QuickZoom to enter Keogh, SEP and SIMPLE contributions ► QuickZoom QuickZoom QuickZoom to enter regular Traditional IRA contributions ► QuickZoom QuickZoom QuickZoom to enter excess Coverdell Education Savings Account (Ed IRA) contributions ► QuickZoom

Roth IRA Contributions

Enter regular Roth IRA contributions made for 2015, including

Also include any contributions to deemed Roth IRAs under an

Contributions recharacterized from a traditional IRA, (from In 4)

any made between 1/1/2016 and 4/18/2016, any amounts later recharacterized to a traditional IRA, and any excess contributions, but not including any rollovers or conversions.

Roth IRA contributions, from Schedule(s) K-1...

Enter contributions recharacterized to a traditional IRA

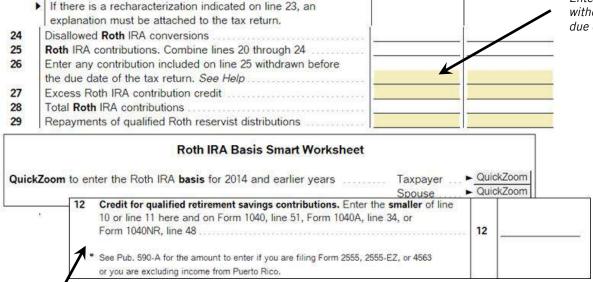
Use Page 2 of this worksheet to enter **Roth IRA** contribution information

Page 1 is for Traditional IRA contributions

Also be sure to enter all information from any W-2s into the W-2 Worksheets

Enter total Roth IRA contributions for the taxpayer and spouse on line 20

Enter any amounts withdrawn by the return due date on line 26



ProSeries will automatically populate Form 8880, calculate the credit, and transfer the amount to Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 51.

Regular Roth IRA Contributions

employer plan.

20

21

22

23

Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit is a **nonrefundable credit** that may be able to reduce the federal income tax the taxpayer owes by up to \$2,000 (increased from \$1,000 in 2017) for each qualifying child. The refundable Additional Child Tax Credit works in concert with this credit, can be found in the payments section of the 1040, and under the **Additional Child Tax Credit** section of this tax manual.

A qualifying child for this credit is someone who meets the following criteria:

- Dependent: Child is claimed as the taxpayer's dependent
- Age: Child was under age 17 at the end of the tax year
- Relationship: Child is the taxpayer's son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, eligible foster child or a
 descendent of any of them. Also, a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepsister, stepbrother, or a
 descendent of any of them (for example, niece or nephew)
- Citizenship: Child is a U.S. citizen
- Support: Child did not provide more than half of his/her own support
- Residency: Child lived with the taxpayer for more than half the year

Additional Child Tax Credit – General Eligibility

Note: Make sure the taxpayer's credit hasn't been disallowed previously. If previously disallowed, see Form 8862, Information To Claim Certain Refundable Credits After Disallowance in Tab I, Earned Income Credit.

The child tax credit is generally a nonrefundable credit; however, certain taxpayers may be entitled to a refundable additional child tax credit.

- Taxpayers with more than \$2,500 of taxable earned income may be eligible for the additional child tax credit if they have at least one qualifying child.
- Taxpayers with three or more children may also be eligible for additional child tax credit regardless of their income.
- · Limited to \$1,400 per qualifying child

Schedule 8812, Additional Child Tax Credit, is used to calculate the allowable additional child tax credit.

See Tab C, Dependents, and the worksheet in the instruction booklet for additional information (including definitions and special rules relating to an adopted child, foster child, or qualifying child of more than one person).

Note: No credit or refund for an overpayment for a taxable year shall be made to a taxpayer before the 15th day of the second month following the close of the taxable year (generally February 15th) if the taxpayer claimed the EITC or additional child tax credit on the tax return.

Note: The qualifying child must now have a valid social security number by the due date of the tax return (including extensions). Taxpayers may not file an amended return to retroactively claim the additional child tax credit for a qualifying child if a valid SSN for the child is issued after the due date of the tax return.

Note: You must claim the child as a dependent on your return to qualify for the Child Tax Credit

Note: (International Certification only) If you claim the foreign earned income exclusion, the housing exclusion, or the housing deduction on Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ, you can't claim the additional child tax credit.

Note: See Disallowance of Certain Refundable Credits in Tab I, Earned Income Credit, if the taxpayer received a letter saying they had to complete Form 8862.

Table 1: Child Tax Credit

Remember to apply the steps for each dependent. To claim the child tax credit and/or the credit for other dependents, you can't be a dependent of another taxpayer.

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer

step Is this person your son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild, niece, or nephew)? A descendant is of any generation.

If YES, go to Step 2.

If NO, you can't claim the child tax credit for this person. This person may qualify for the credit for other dependents, go to Table 2.

step Did this person provide over half of his or her own support for the tax year? (2)

If NO, go to Step 3.

If YES, you can't claim the child tax credit or the credit for other dependents for this person. STOP if the taxpayer has no other dependents

step Did this person live with you for more than half of the tax year? If the dependent didn't live with you for the required time, see the following notes below the chart:

If YES, go to Step 4.

If NO, you can't claim the child tax credit for this person. This person may qualify for the credit for other dependents, go to Table 2.

- Exception to Time Lived with You
- Kidnapped Child

Children of Divorced or Separated Parents or Parents who live apart.

If YES, go to Step 5.

If NO, you can't claim the child tax credit or the credit for other dependents for this person.

step Is this person a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or resident alien of the United Note: A national is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen,

owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans and Northern Mariana Islanders who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens. See Tab L, Resident/NR Alien for definition of Resident Alien.

step Does this person have a valid Social Security number that was

If YES, go to Step 6. If NO, you can't claim the child tax credit for this person. This person qualifies for the credit for other dependents if he or she has an ATIN or ITIN.

issued by the due date of the return (including extensions)?

If YES, go to Step 7

If NO, you can't claim the child tax credit for this person. This person qualifies for the credit for other dependents

Questions: Who Must Use Publication 972, Child Tax Credit?

step Are you excluding income from Puerto Rico or are you filing Form 2555, Form 2555-EZ (relating to foreign earned income), or Form 4563, Exclusion of Income for Bona Fide Residents of American Samoa?

Is this person under age 17 at the end of the tax year?

If NO, go to Step 8.

If YES, you must use Publication 972 to figure the

step Are you claiming any of the following credits? Adoption Credit, a residential energy credit, Form 5695, Part II; Mortgage Interest credit, Form 8396; District of Columbia first-time homebuyer credit, Form 8859.

If NO, use the Child Tax Credit Worksheet to figure the credit

If YES, you must use Publication 972 to figure the

Exception to Time Lived with You

A child is considered to have lived with you for all of the current tax year if the child was born or died in 2018 and your home was this child's home for the entire time he or she was alive. Temporary absences for special circumstances, such as for school, vacation, medical care, military service, or detention in a juvenile facility, count as time lived at home.

Children of Divorced or Separated Parents

A child will be treated as being the qualifying child of his or her noncustodial parent if all of the following apply:

- The parents were divorced or legally separated or lived apart at all times during the last 6 months of the current tax year
- The child received over half of his or her support for the current tax year from the parents.
- The child was in the custody of one or both of the parents for more than half of the current tax year.
- A decree of divorce or separate maintenance or written separation agreement that applies to the current tax year provides that (a) the noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent, or (b) the custodial parent will sign a written declaration that he or she won't claim the child as a dependent for the current tax year.
- The custodial parent signs Form 8332, Release/Revocation of Release of Claim to Exemption for Child by Custodial Parent, or similar statement that he or she won't claim the child as a dependent in the current tax year. If the divorce decree or separation agreement went into effect before 2009, the non custodial parent may be able to attach certain pages of the decree or agreement instead of Form 8332

Kidnapped Child

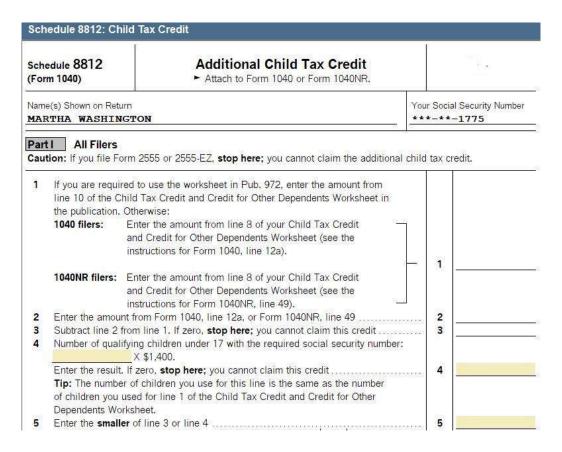
A kidnapped child is considered to have lived with you for all of the current tax year if:

- In the year the kidnapping occurred, the kidnapped child is presumed by law enforcement to have been taken by someone who isn't a family member, and
- The kidnapped child lived with the taxpayer for more than half of the portion of the year prior to the kidnapping
- Modified Adjusted Gross Income Limits
- Married filing jointly \$400,000
- All other filing statuses \$200,000

Note: Current tax year reference applies to tax year 2018.

Child Tax Credit Worksheet

The Child Tax Credit worksheet will automatically populate based on the information previously entered.



Other Dependents

The Credit for Other Dependents is a \$500 non-refundable credit (new for 2018). It applies to any dependent not eligible for the child tax credit, with the exception of non-citizen dependents who are not resident aliens. Examples of eligible dependents would include children 17 or over, children who are not citizens (provided that they are residents of the U. S.), parents, and qualifying relatives including unrelated persons.

For most Ladder Up clients this new credit and the expanded child tax credit will offset the loss of the dependent exemption for 2018. The credit is reported on Form 1040, line 12a. To claim the credit, the dependent information needs to be entered into ProSeries on the Federal Information Worksheet, and then ProSeries will calculate the credit automatically.

Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled

This **nonrefundable credit** is available to individuals who are either age 65 or older or under age 65 and retired on permanent and total disability. Schedule R is completed and attached to Form 1040 to claim the credit. Use Figures A & B to determine the client's eligibility for the credit.

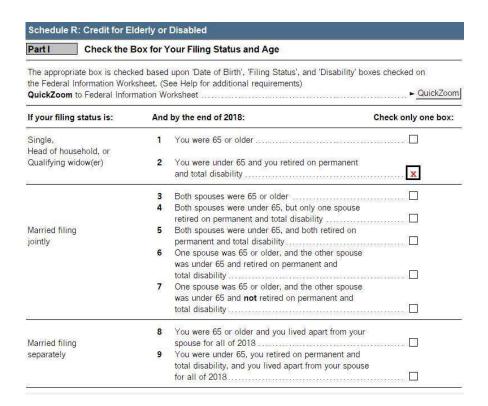
Figure A. Are You a Qualified Individual? Use the following chart to determine if the taxpayer is eligible for the credit for the elderly or the disabled:				
step	Were you married at the end of the tax year?	YES – Go to Step 2 NO – Go to Step 4		
step	Did you live with your spouse at any time during the year? Answer NO if you qualify to be considered unmarried and file as Head of Household.	YES – Go to Step 3 NO – Go to Step 4		
step 3	Are you filing a joint return with your spouse?	YES – Go to Step 4 NO – You aren't a qualified individual and can't take the credit for the elderly or the disabled		
step 4	Are you a U.S. citizen or resident alien?	YES – Go to Step 5 NO – You aren't a qualified individual and can't take the credit for the elderly or the disabled		
step 5	Were you 65 or older at the end of the tax year?	YES – You are a qualified individual and may be able to tal the credit for the elderly or the disabled unless your income exceeds the limits in Figure B NO – Go to Step 6		
step	Are you retired on permanent and total disability?	YES – Go to Step 7 NO – You aren't a qualified individual and can't take the credit for the elderly or the disabled		
step	Did you reach mandatory retirement age before this year? 2	YES – You aren't a qualified individual and can't take the credit for the elderly or the disabled NO – Go to Step 8		
step (8)	Did you receive taxable disability benefits this year?	YES – You are a qualified individual and may be able to tal the credit for the elderly or the disabled unless your income exceeds the limits in Figure B NO – You aren't a qualified individual and can't take the credit for the elderly or the disabled		

Footnotes

1 If you were a nonresident alien at any time during the tax year and were married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien at the end of the tax year, see U.S. Citizen or Resident Alien under Qualified Individual. If you and your spouse choose to treat you as a U.S. resident alien, answer "yes" to this question. 2 Mandatory retirement age is the age set by your employer at which you would have been required to retire, had you not become disabled.

	THEN you generally can't take the credit if		
IF you are	Your adjusted gross income (AGI) is	OR the total of your nontaxable social security and other nontaxable pension annuities or disability income is equal to or more than	
single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child	\$17,500	\$5,000	
married filing a joint return and both spouses qualify in Figure A	\$25,000	\$7,500	
married filing a joint return and only one spouse qualifies in <i>Figure A</i>	\$20,000	\$5,000	
married filing a separate return and you lived apart from your spouse for all of 2018	\$12,500	\$3,750	

ProSeries will calculate the credit and populate Schedule R based on the information entered. Be sure to include the taxpayer's total Social Security benefits, regardless of taxability, to ensure the correct calculation of the credit.



The credit will be automatically transferred onto Form 1040, Schedule 3, line 54.



Residential Energy Credits

As of this writing, the credit is expired for 2018 tax returns.

The residential energy credit is still in effect for returns from 2017 and earlier years.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC, or also referred to as EIC) is a **refundable credit** for workers who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Persons with or without a qualifying child may claim the EITC. The maximum credit a taxpayer can get will depend on whether he has:

- No qualifying children (taxpayers age 25-65 only)
- One qualifying child
- Two qualifying children, or
- Three or more qualifying children

TO CLAIM THE EITC, THE TAXPAYER MUST HAVE EARNED INCOME

Types of Earned Income

Earned income includes all income from employment, but only if it is includable in gross income, including wages, salaries, tips, and other taxable employee compensation, and net earnings from self-employment. Members of the military who receive excludable combat zone compensation may elect to include it in earned income.

Earned income does not include amounts such as pensions and annuities, welfare benefits, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation benefits, or social security benefits.

Determining a Taxpayer's Eligibility

- A taxpayer, his spouse (if applicable), and all qualifying children must have valid SSNs. ITIN holders are not eligible for the EITC.
- The taxpayer must have earned employment income, including self-employment income, in order to be eligible to claim the EITC.
- Filing status CANNOT be Married Filing Separately.
- If the taxpayer has no qualifying children, he must be between the ages of 25-65; he can be any age if he has one or more qualifying child(ren).
- The taxpayer cannot be a qualifying child of another person.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year.
- Cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ (relating to foreign earned income).
- Investment income must be \$3,500 or less.
- The first two questions in Part 4 of the ProSeries Federal Information Worksheet must have answers of "No" and "Yes" respectively in order for the client to be considered for the EITC:

Part IV — Earned Income Credit Information Required to Calculate EIC: Yes No Was taxpayer or spouse qualifying child for EIC for another person? Was taxpayer's (and spouse's if married filing jointly) home in United States for more than half of 2015? This answer should be "No" unless the taxpayer is a qualifying child for someone else, i.e. a student who is still claimed by his parents. This answer should be "No" unless the taxpayer is a qualifying child for someone else, i.e. a student who is still claimed by his parents. This answer should be "No" unless the taxpayer is a qualifying child for someone else, i.e. a student who is still claimed by his parents. Yes No Taxpayer or spouse qualifying child for EIC for another person? Was taxpayer's (and spouse's if married filing jointly) home in United States for more than half of 2015? This answer should always be "Yes" since one of TAP's requirements is that the client was a full-year Illinois resident

Determining a Dependent's Eligibility for Additional Amounts

If a client has qualifying children, he may qualify for a higher amount of the EITC. However, qualifying relatives are not considered for a higher amount of the EITC.

In order for an individual to be considered a qualifying child to allow the taxpayer to claim an additional amount of EITC, the individual:

- Must be the taxpayer's son, daughter, stepchild, adopted child, or eligible foster child, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, stepsister or a descendent of any of them.
- Must be under the age of 19 and be younger than the taxpayer, under the age of 24 as well as a full-time student, or any age, if permanently and totally disabled.
- Must have a SSN that is valid for work (i.e. the SS card cannot say "Not valid for employment").
- Cannot be claimed by another person for the EITC.
- Cannot be filing a joint return tax return with someone else.
- Must have lived with the taxpayer in the US for more than half the year.



Note: This means that a non-custodial parent cannot claim the EITC, even if he is claiming the child as a dependent due to an arrangement between the parents. These requirements are in addition to the requirements for being a qualifying child on the Dependency Table.

Earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must be less than:

	Qualifying Children Claimed			
If filing	Zero One	Ono	Two	Three or
II IIIIIII		TWO	more	
Single, HOH	\$15,270	\$40,320	\$45,802	\$49,194
Married				
Filing Jointly	\$20,950	\$46,010	\$51,492	\$54,884
or QW				

Maximum credit for tax year 2018:

- \$6,431 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,716 with two qualifying children
- \$3,461 with one qualifying child
- \$519 with no qualifying children

There are restrictions on EIC claims by taxpayers for whom a previous EIC claim was denied or reduced due to any reason other than a math or clerical error. For example, a taxpayer who was determined to have claimed the EIC due to reckless or intentional disregard of the EIC rules may have a ban imposed for two years. If the error was due to fraud, then the taxpayer cannot claim the EIC for 10 tax years. Ask taxpayers if they have ever been denied the EIC. If so, you must file Form 8862, Information to Claim Earned Income Credit After Disallowance, with the tax return.

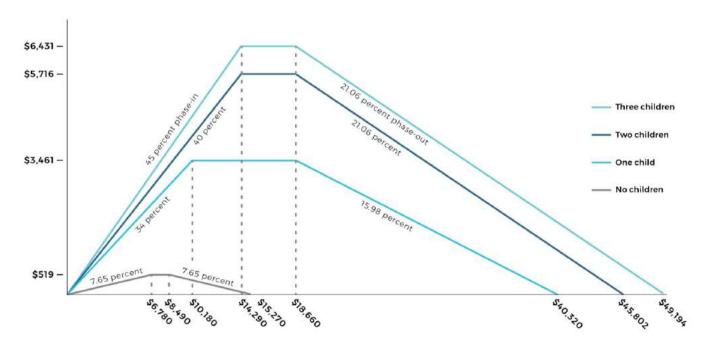
Note:

Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) and Adoption Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ATINs) cannot be used when claiming the EITC. If a couple is filing a joint return, both spouses and all qualifying children must have valid Social Security numbers to qualify for the EITC.

Chart of EITC Benefits

Earned Income Tax Credit

2018 Credit Amount



Source: IRS Revenue Bulletin 2018, Adapted from TPC EITC 2017 Figure 1

Note: Assumes all income comes from earnings. Amounts are for taxpayers filing a single or head-of-household tax return. For married couples filing a joint tax return, the credit begins to phase out at income \$5,690 higher than shown.

Form 8867 – Paid Preparer's Due Diligence Checklist

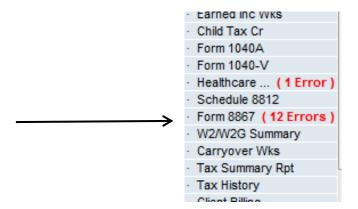
While Ladder Up is not a paid preparer, within ProSeries the organization is coded as a paid preparer so that it's IRS-issued Site Identification Number (SIDN) will appear on all returns. As such, the Paid Preparer's Due Diligence Checklist (Form 8867) will appear for all clients receiving the EIC, AOTC and CTC. Checkers must complete all required questions on the form or else the return will be rejected when e-filed.

Since Ladder Up is a VITA program the responses to these questions do not have an effect on the clients return after it is received by the IRS. Ladder Up undergoes its own due diligence requirements with the IRS through site visits, etc.

^{**} The information in this graph depicts EITC income and credit limitations for both single and head-of-household filers.

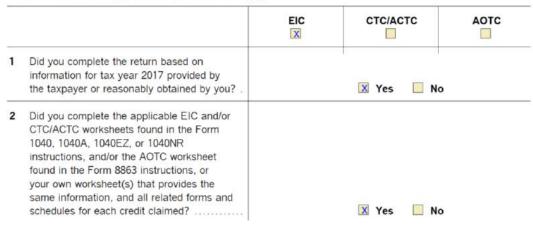
Instructions for the Paid Preparer's Due Diligence Checklist (Form 8867)

1. When a client qualifies for the Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit or American Opportunity Tax Credit, Form 8867 will automatically populate.



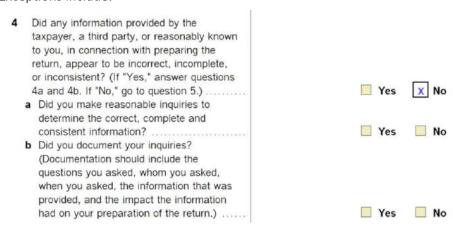
2. Clear all relevant errors by answering the questions presented on the form.

Please complete the appropriate box for the credits claimed on this return and complete the related Parts I-IV for the credit(s) claimed (check all that apply).



3. Most responses will be "yes" as this Form is meant to serve as a record that the taxpayer went through an interview process which is part of the process at every Ladder Up tax site.

Exceptions include:



5 Did you satisfy the record retention requirement? To meet the record retention requirement, you must keep a copy of your documentation referenced in 4b, a copy of this Form 8867, a copy of applicable worksheets, a record of how, when, and from whom the information used to prepare Form 8867 and worksheet(s) was obtained, and a copy of any document(s) provided by the taxpayer that you relied on to determine eligibility or to compute the amount for the credit(s)?

Yes X No

Ladder Up is part of the VITA program and therefore not required to retain records.

Additional Child Tax Credit

The Additional Child Tax Credit provides an additional **refundable credit** for certain individuals who receive less than the full amount of the Child Tax Credit for which they are eligible. Because this is a refundable credit, it may give the taxpayer a refund even if he does not owe any tax.

The Additional Child Tax Credit is calculated by comparing 15% of gross earned income over \$2,500 to the remainder of the allowable amount of the Child Tax Credit. The smaller of these two amounts is the amount of the Additional Child Tax Credit that can be claimed on Form 1040, line 17a, and cannot exceed \$1,400.

Note: ProSeries will automatically calculate the credit

Postsecondary Education Expenses and Credits

Taxpayers have several options for using education expenses to reduce taxes:

- Tuition and fees deduction (expired at the end of 2017)
- American Opportunity Credit or Lifetime Learning Credit
- Reporting as business expenses on Form 1040, Schedule C and C-EZ



Tuition and Fees Deduction

As of the writing of this manual, this deduction is expired for 2018 returns.

Generally, a taxpayer can claim the tuition and fees deduction if:

- He paid qualified education expenses for higher education
- He paid the education expenses for an eligible student
- The eligible student is the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or dependent for whom he can claim an exemption on his tax return
- Starting in 2016, the taxpayer must have a Form 1098-T in order to claim this credit

A taxpayer <u>cannot</u> claim the tuition and fees deduction if any of the following apply:

- His filing status is Married Filing Separately
- Another person can claim an exemption for the taxpayer as a dependent on his or her tax return, even if that person does not actually claim the exemption
- His modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 if filing a joint return)
- He was a nonresident alien for any part of the year
- He or anyone else claims an <u>education credit</u> for expenses of the student for whom the qualified expenses were paid

Tuition and fees as well as student activity expenses, course-related books, supplies and equipment are included in qualified education expenses only if the fees and expenses must be paid <u>to the institution</u> as a condition of enrollment or attendance.



The total of <u>qualified education expenses must be reduced</u> by any tax-free educational assistance received for the qualified expenses paid. Tax-free educational assistance includes a tax-free scholarship, Pell grant, or tax-free employer-provided educational assistance.

Education Credits

The two tax credits for postsecondary education expenses are the American Opportunity Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit. The amount of the credit is determined by the amount paid for "qualified tuition and related expenses" for each student. Form 8863 must be completed and attached to the tax return to claim an education credit.

A taxpayer cannot claim both education credits for the same student in a single year. For example, the taxpayer cannot:

- Take both an American Opportunity Credit and a Lifetime Learning Credit for the same student in the same year
- Take the tuition and fees deduction with either education credit for the same student in the same year
- Take an American Opportunity Credit for the same student for more than four tax years
- Figure the education credits based on expenses that have already been taken on Schedule A or Schedules C and C-EZ

If a taxpayer paid qualified education expenses for more than one student in the same year, he can choose to take certain credits on a per-student, per-year basis. This means that, for example, he can claim the American Opportunity Credit for one student and the Lifetime Learning Credit for another student in the same year.

Who Can Claim the Credit?

- Taxpayers who paid qualified educational expenses of higher education for an eligible student
- Taxpayers who paid the educational expenses for a student enrolled at or attending an eligible educational institution (list of accredited institutions is located at http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation)
- The eligible student is either the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or a dependent whom the taxpayer can claim as a dependent on his return

Who Cannot Claim the Credit?

- Married Filing Separately filing status
- Taxpayers listed as a dependent on another person's return
- Taxpayers whose modified AGI is more than the allowable limits (these taxpayers are out-ofscope due to income)
- The taxpayer (or spouse) was a nonresident alien for any part of the tax year and the nonresident alien did not elect to be treated as a resident for tax purposes

Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Expenses

Expenses that qualify are expenses:

- Paid for an academic period starting in 2018 or the first 3 months of 2019
- Not refunded if the student withdraws from class
- Paid in cash, through scholarships or grants, or with the proceeds from a loan

In addition, refer to the below for specific types of expense which do or do not qualify.

What are Qualifying Expenses?

- Tuition and required fees
- For the American Opportunity Credit only, qualifying expenses also include books, supplies, and equipment needed for a course of study whether or not the materials are purchased from the educational institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance
- For the Lifetime Learning Credit, qualifying expenses also include expenses for books, supplies, and
 equipment but <u>only</u> if the expenses must be paid to the institution and are required for enrollment or
 attendance

What are Non-Qualifying Expenses?

- Insurance
- Medical expenses (including insurance and student health fees)
- Room and board
- Transportation or similar personal, living, or family expenses even if the fees must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance
- Any course of instruction or other education involving sports, games, or hobbies, or any noncredit course, unless the course is part of the student's degree program or (for the Lifetime Learning Credit) helps the student acquire or improve job skills
- Research
- Clerical help

Adjustments to Qualified Education Expenses: Tax-Free Educational Assistance

Taxpayers who pay qualified higher education expenses with tax-free funds cannot claim a credit for those amounts. Qualified expenses must be reduced by the amount of any tax-free educational assistance taxpayers receive. Ask the taxpayer if the student received any of these tax-free educational benefits:

- Pell grant
- Employer-provided educational assistance
- Veteran's educational assistance
- Tax-free portions of scholarships and fellowships
- Any other nontaxable payments received as educational assistance (other than gifts or inheritances)
- Refunds of the year's qualified expenses paid on behalf of a student (i.e. if the student dropped a class and received a refund of tuition)

Dependent's Education Expenses

To claim the credit for a dependent's qualified expenses, the taxpayer must claim the dependent on the return.

IF the taxpayer	THEN only
Claims a dependent on the return who is an eligible student	The taxpayer can claim the credit based on that dependent's expenses. The dependent cannot claim the credit.
Does not claim the dependent on the return	The dependent can claim the credit (unless claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return). The taxpayer cannot claim the credit based on the dependent's expenses.

Qualified education expenses paid by a claimed dependent, or by a third party for that dependent, are considered paid by the taxpayer. Anyone paying the expenses (even directly to the institution) is considered to have given a gift to the student who in turn is treated as having paid the expenses.

American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Credits

	·	EDUCATION BENEFIT		
		American Opportunity Credit Lifetime Learning Credit		
	Maximum credit or benefit	Up to \$2,500 credit per eligible student	Up to \$2,000 per eligible student	
	Refundable or nonrefundable	40% of credit. ¹	Not refundable.	
Description of tax benefit	Number of tax years credit available	4 tax years per eligible student, including any years former Hope Unlimited. Credit claimed.		
	Qualified Expenses	Tuition, required enrollment fees, and course materials needed for course of study.	Tuition and fees required for enrollent or attendance.	
Other	Must be degree seeking?	Student must be pursuing a degree or other recognized education credential.	Student does not need to be pursuing a degree or other recognized education credential.	
Other	Required to attend at least half time?	Yes, for at least one semester or quarter.	No.	
	Felony drug conviction?	No felony drug conviction.	Does not apply.	
	If you are the taxpayer.	You, your spouse, or the student is someone you claim as a dependent on your return.		
Who can claim this tax benefit?	If you are a dependent student.	You cannot claim the credit if you are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return. However, if a student can be claimed, but is not, the student can claim the benefit.		
	If you are filing Married Filing Separately		No.	
Tax form required		Form 8863, Education Credits Form 8863, Education Credit		

¹ None of the credit is refundable if 1) the taxpayer claiming the credit is (a) under age 18 or (b) age 18 at the end of the year, and their earned income was less than one-half of their own support or (c) a full time student over 18 and under 24 and their earned income was less than one-half of the own support; and (2) the taxpayer has at least one living parent, and; (3) the taxpayer does not file a joint return.

<u>Note:</u> There are two 4-year old tests for American Opportunity Credit. First, the credit can be taken only four years. Second, the student must not have completed four years of academic credit before the beginning of the year. Follow examples in the *Who is Eligible Student for the American Opportunity Credit* section in Publication 970 for additional information.

Who can claim the credit?

- Taxpayers who paid qualified educational expenses of higher education for an eligible student
- Taxpayers who paid the education expenses for a student enrolled at or attending an eligible educational institution.
- The eligible student is the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or a dependent for whom the taxpayer claims an exemption on the tax return.

Note: Qualified education expenses paid by a dependent who is claimed on the tax return, or by a third party for that dependent, are considered paid by the taxpayer. If a student is **NOT** claimed as a dependent (even if eligible to be claimed), only the student can claim an education credit no matter who paid the expenses. Anyone paying the expenses (even directly to the institution) is considered to have given a gift to the student who in turn is treated as having paid the expenses.

Scholarships, Fellowships and Other Educational Assistance

Taxpayers who pay qualified higher education expenses with tax-free funds cannot claim a credit for those amounts. Qualified expenses must be reduced by the amount of any tax-free educational assistance taxpayers receive. Ask the taxpayer if the student received any of these tax-free educational benefits.

- Pell grant
- Employer-provided educational assistance
- Veteran's educational assistance
- Tax-free portions of scholarships and fellowships
- Any other nontaxable payments received as educational assistance (other than gifts or inheritances). For example, distributions from a 529 plan reported on Form 1099-Q, Payments From Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530)
- Refunds of the year's qualified expenses paid on behalf of a student (e.g., if the student dropped a class and received a refund of tuition)

A **scholarship** is generally an amount paid or allowed to, or for the benefit of, a student at an educational institution to aid in the pursuit of studies. The student may be either an undergraduate or a graduate.

A **fellowship** is generally an amount paid for the benefit of an individual to aid in the pursuit of study or research.

Form 1098-T may have incomplete information. Question the taxpayer to determine **the amount of qualified expenses actually paid** and adjust this amount by any non-taxable items, such as tax-free scholarships and tuition program distributions.

Example: Joan Smith received Form 1098-T from the college she attends. It shows her tuition was \$9,500 and that she received a \$1,500 scholarship. She had no other scholarships or nontaxable payments. Her maximum qualifying expenses for the education credit would be \$8,000 (\$9,500 - \$1,500).

	AND you are		THEN your payment is	
IF you use the payment for	A degree candidate	Not a degree candidate	Tax free ²	Taxable ¹
Tuition	Х		Х	
		Х		Х
Fees	Х		X ₃	
		Х		Х
Books	X		X ³	
		Х		Х
Supplies	Х		X ³	
		Х		Х
Equipment	X		X ³	
Computers must be required for enrollment or attendance		Х		Х
Room	Х	Х		Х
Board	Х	Х		Х
Travel	Х	X		Х
Research	Х	Х		Х
Equipment and other expenses that are not required for enrollment in or attendance at an eligible educational institution	X	х		X

¹To determine the net taxable portion of the scholarship or grant, subtract the allowable tax-free items (see Form 1098-T for information regarding tuition paid and scholarships received). The net amount is taxable to the person in whose name the scholarship was received.

²Payments used for any expenses indicated in this column are tax free only if the terms of the scholarship or fellowship do not prohibit the expense.

³If required of all students in the course.

Tax-Free Scholarships and Fellowships

A scholarship or fellowship is tax free only if:

- The taxpayer is a candidate for a degree¹ at an eligible educational institution,
- It does not exceed the taxpayer's qualified education expenses;
- It is not designated or earmarked for other purposes (such as room and board), and does not require (by its terms) that it cannot be used for qualified education expenses; and
- It does not represent payment for teaching, research, or other services required as a condition for receiving the scholarship. (But for exceptions, see Payments for services in Publication 970)

¹You are a candidate for a degree if you attend a primary or secondary school or are pursuing a degree at a college or university, or attend an educational institution that offers a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and is authorized under federal or state law to provide such a program and is accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

Taxable Scholarships and Fellowships

If the scholarship or fellowship does not meet the requirements described earlier, it is taxable. The following amounts received may be taxable.

- Amounts used to pay expenses that do not qualify
 - A scholarship amount used to pay any expense that does not qualify is taxable, even if the expense is a fee that must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.
- Payments for services
 - Generally, the part of any scholarship or fellowship that represents payment for teaching, research, or other services required as a condition for receiving the scholarship must be included in income. This applies even if all candidates for a degree must perform the services to receive the degree.
 - Exceptions: The part of any scholarship or fellowship that represents payment for teaching, research, or other services does not have to be included in income if the amount is received under:
 - The National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, or
 - The Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program,

and the taxpayer:

- Is a candidate for a degree at an eligible educational institution, and
- Uses that part of the scholarship or fellowship to pay qualified education expenses.
- Scholarship prizes
 - If a scholarship is won as a prize in a contest, the scholarship is fully taxable unless the taxpayer meets the requirements discussed earlier under *Tax-Free Scholarships and Fellowships*.

Other Kinds of Educational Assistance

Fulbright Grants

A Fulbright grant is generally treated as a scholarship or fellowship in figuring how much of the grant is tax free. Report only the taxable amount on the tax return.

Pell Grants and Other Title IV Need-Based Education Grants

These need-based grants are treated as scholarships for purposes of determining their tax treatment. They are tax free to the extent they are used for **qualified** education expenses during the period for which a grant is awarded. Report only the taxable amount on the tax return.

Note: Students can determine if they would like to include all or part of the Pell grant/scholarship as taxable income on their return when the grant/scholarship is not required to be applied to education expenses only. However, the student must have incurred actual nonqualified expenses throughout the year. If the student is a dependent, the benefit of the education credit would be on the return of the individual who claims the student as the dependent, but it is the student who has to include the taxable scholarship/grant income on his return. See the next page for how to complete this process in ProSeries.

Payment to Service Academy Cadets

An appointment to a United States military academy is not a scholarship or fellowship. Payment received as a cadet or midshipman at an armed services academy is pay for personal services and will be reported to the taxpayer in box 1 of Form W-2. Include this pay in income in the year it was received unless one of the exceptions, discussed earlier under Payment for services, applies.

Veterans' Benefits

Payments received for education, training, or subsistence under any law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are tax free. Do not include these payments as income on the federal tax return.

Taxpayers may want to visit the Veteran's Administration website at www.gibill.va.gov for specific information about the various VA benefits for education.

Qualified Tuition Reduction

If the taxpayer is allowed to study tuition free or for a reduced rate of tuition, he may not have to pay tax on this benefit. This is called a "tuition reduction." He does not have to include a qualified tuition reduction in income.

A tuition reduction is qualified only if it is received from, and used at, an eligible educational institution. The taxpayer does not have to use the tuition reduction at the eligible educational institution from which he received it. In other words, if he works for an eligible educational institution and the institution arranges for him or her to take courses at another eligible educational institution without paying any tuition, he may not have to include the value of the free courses in income.

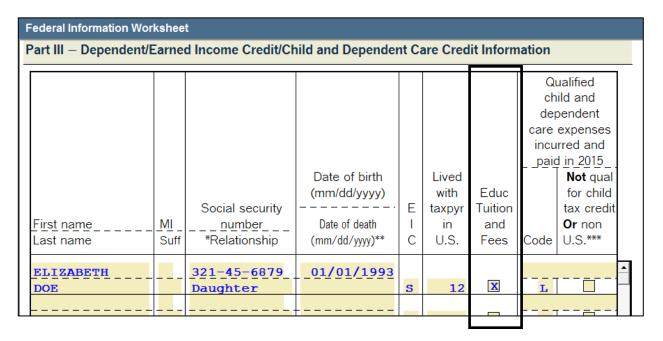
The rules for determining if a tuition reduction is qualified, and therefore tax free, are different if the education provided is below the graduate level or is graduate education.

The taxpayer must include in his income any tuition reduction received that is payment for his services.

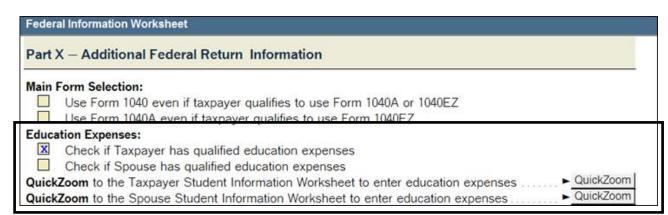
How to Enter Postsecondary Education Expenses and Credits in ProSeries

Step 1: Mark the student as having education expenses

- If the qualified student is a dependent on the taxpayer's return:
 - In Part III of the Federal Information Worksheet, for the dependent that was a student, check the Education Tuition and Fees box:



- If the qualified student is the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse:
 - In Part IX of the Federal Information Worksheet, check the appropriate box(es) in the Education Expenses section:



Step 2: Complete the Student Info Worksheet

If the student is a dependent, you can access his Student Info Worksheet from the Forms Bar on the left side of the screen.

If the student is the taxpayer or spouse, you can QuickZoom to the Student Info Worksheet from Part X of the FIW.

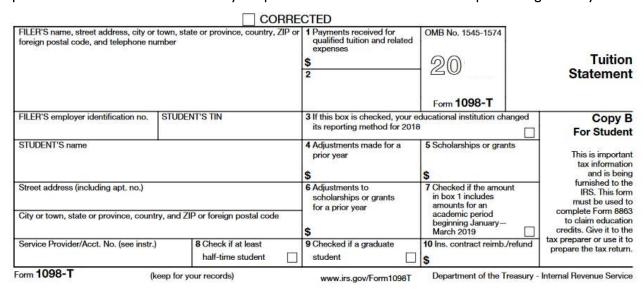
Postsecondary Education Expenses and Credits in ProSeries, Cont.

Dependent Student Info Worksheet (ELIZABETH DOE)	
Student Information Worksheet ► Keep for your records	
Name of Student ELIZABETH DOE	Social Security Number 321-45-6879
Part I – Student Status	
Was this person a student during 2015? What kind of school did the student attend during 2015? (Check all that a lelementary c x College (postsecondary) e lementary b High school (secondary) d Vocational school f QuickZoom to Form 1098-T Worksheet, Tuition Statement QuickZoom to Form 1099-Q, Payments from Qualified Education Program QuickZoom to Form 1098-T	Military academy Not applicable ■ QuickZoom

Form 1098-T: Tuition Statement

Oftentimes a student will receive Form 1098-T from his educational institution showing the amounts the student paid or was billed for tuition and related expenses, the amounts of scholarships and grants received, and whether the student was at least a half-time student or a graduate student.

Verify that the amount in Box 1 of the Form 1098-T is actually the amount paid in the current tax year for qualified expenses. Be sure to ask the client if they can provide a full record of the amounts paid during the tax year.



- When determining qualified education expenses, use only the payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses in 2018 (box 1 of Form 1098-T).
- Taxable scholarships and grants: On Form 1098-T, the student's scholarships or grants (box 5) may exceed the payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses (box 1). If the excess amount of scholarships or grants was used for non-qualified education expenses, the excess amount is included as

income on line 1 of the Form 1040 for the student even if the scholarship states that funds can or should be used for the non-qualified expenses such as room and board.



In cases where the student is a dependent and his scholarship total exceeds the payments received by the school, the excess amount of scholarships is attributable to the student as income, even if he is a dependent on someone else's return.

Comprehensive or bundled fees. Some eligible educational institutions combine all of their fees for an academic period into one amount. If a student does not receive or does not have access to an allocation showing how much he paid for qualified education expenses and how much he paid for personal expenses, contact the institution. The institution is required to make this allocation and provide the student with the amount he paid for qualified education expenses on Form 1098-T.

Educational institutions are required to file a Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement, with the IRS and to provide a copy of the form to the student, for each enrolled student for whom there is a reportable transaction. A reportable transaction includes payments received, amounts billed, or refunds made for tuition and related expenses. For the Form 1098-T to be accurately prepared, the educational institution must address boxes 8 and 9. Note that box 8 will be checked if the student was enrolled at least half-time, and box 9 will be checked if the student was enrolled as a graduate student.

There are some exceptions where an educational institution is not required to file and provide the Form 1098-T. These exceptions include:

- Courses for which no academic credit is offered, even if the student is otherwise enrolled in a degree program.
- Nonresident alien students, unless the student requests the institution to file Form 1098-T.
- Students whose tuition and related expenses are waived entirely or paid entirely with scholarships or grants.
- Students whose tuition and related expenses are covered by a formal billing arrangement with the student's employer or a government agency such as the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense.

If a student should have received a 1098-T and did not, he should ask the college if it is available online or if it can be sent to him or her.



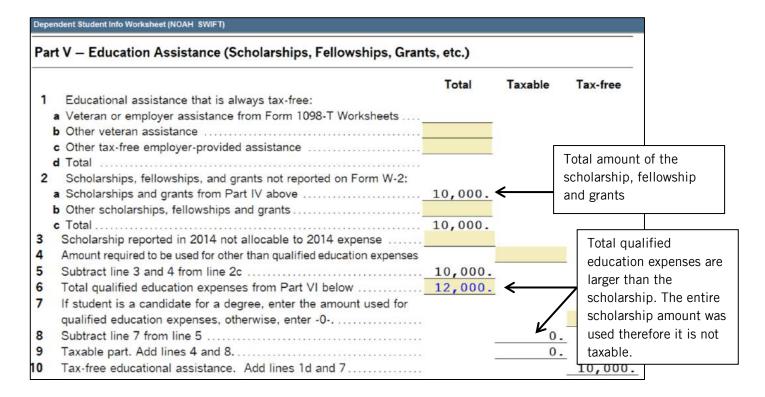
Enter information from the student's 1098-T by using the QuickZoom button in Part I. Make sure to Link the 1098-T with the Student Information Worksheet. Once linked, the information from the 1098-T will appear in Part IV.

After you complete the Student Info Worksheet, go to Part VII of the Worksheet and click the QuickZoom button in step 5 to go to the Education Tuition and Fees Summary.

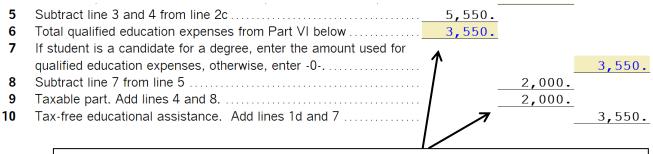
Part V – Education Assistance (Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants, etc.)

Students must report scholarship funds that were not applied to qualified education expenses. Adjustments can be made in Part V of the Student Information Worksheet. Part V will automatically populate based on information that was previously entered from Form 1098-T.

Example: Scholarships/Pell Grants covered all educational expenses



Example: Scholarship/Pell Grants were not fully used on qualified expenses and are considered taxable



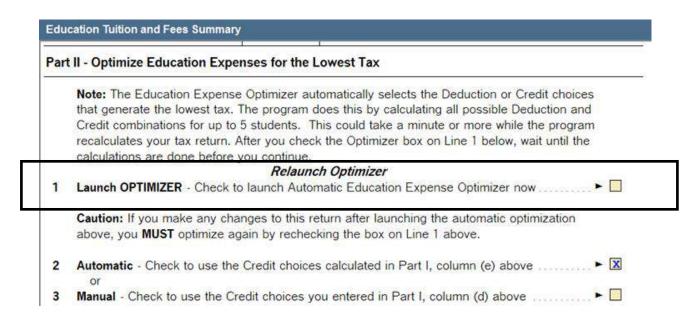
Total qualified education expenses are less than the scholarship. The entire scholarship amount was not used therefore it is taxable and will appear on line 1 of the Form 1040.



When scholarships exceed qualified education expenses it is considered unearned income. For dependent students, if this amount exceeds \$2,100 the Kiddie Tax will be triggered. This topic requires Advanced certification.

Step 3: Launch the Optimizer from the Education Tuition and Fees Summary

When you reach the Education Tuition and Fees Summary, click "Launch Optimizer" in Part II of the Summary. The Optimizer will select the option (deduction or credit) that is most advantageous for the taxpayer.





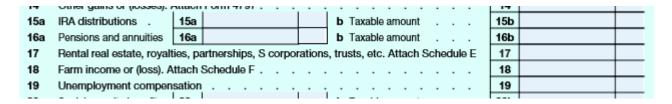
If any additional changes are made to the return, RE-LAUNCH THE OPTIMIZER so ProSeries can recalculate the most advantageous deduction or credit.

Repayment/Recapture of Prior Year Education Credits (Box 4 of 1098-T)

Some forms 1098-T contain an entry in Box 4, Adjustments Made for a Prior year. These typically appear when the student paid amounts to their school near the end of one calendar year, and then withdrew from one or more classes and received a refund early in the next calendar year. Box 4 will contain the amount of the current year adjustment. In this case the current year tax return needs to include a special tax to repay or recapture the amount by which any education credit in the previous year exceeded the credit that would have been calculated had the qualified expenses for that year been reduced by the amount of the adjustment. If there was an education credit attributable to the student in the prior year, the repayment or recapture puts the return out of scope in the current year. If there was no education credit attributable to the student in the prior year, the adjustment can be entered in ProSeries and then ignored.

Payments

Check Form 1040 lines 16, 17 and 18 along with Schedule 5, for any information that was calculated by ProSeries.

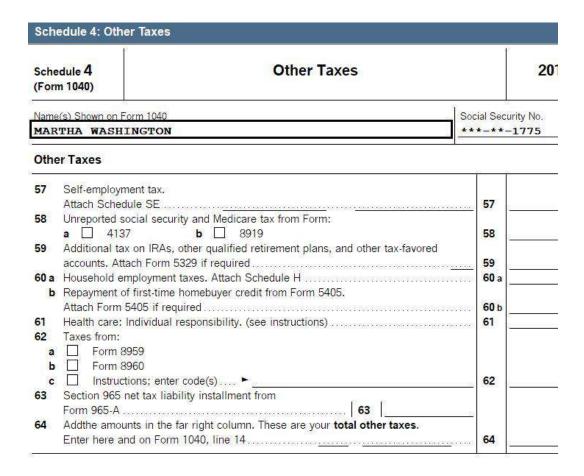


	edule 5 n 1040)	Other Payments and Refundable Credits	
	e(s) Shown on Form		ocial Security N
Othe		nd Refundable Credits	
~	Reserved		65
			1888
66	2018 estimated	tax payments and amount applied from 2017 return	66
66 67 a	2018 estimated Reserved	tax payments and amount applied from 2017 return	66 67 a
SPECIAL PROPERTY.	2018 estimated Reserved Reserved	tax payments and amount applied from 2017 return	66 67 a 67 b
66 67 a b	2018 estimated Reserved Reserved 9 Reserved		66 67 a
66 67 a b	2018 estimated Reserved Reserved 9 Reserved	tax payments and amount applied from 2017 returnx credit. Attach Form 8962	66 67 a 67 b
66 67 a b 68-6	2018 estimated Reserved Reserved 9 Reserved Net premium ta		66 67 a 67 b 68-69
66 67 a b 68-6	2018 estimated Reserved Reserved 9 Reserved Net premium ta Amount paid wi	x credit. Attach Form 8962	66 67 a 67 b 68-69 70

- Line 16: Taxes withheld will transfer from previously-entered income worksheets.
- Schedule 5 Line 66: QuickZoom by double clicking on line 66 to enter any estimated payments. No proof of payment is needed but explain to the taxpayer that this information is verified by the IRS and would need to be substantiated in the case of an audit.
- Line 17a: EITC worksheet will automatically populate based on previously-entered information if amount is missing, check Federal Information Worksheet, Part IV.
- Line 17b: Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit) will automatically populate if applicable.
- Line 17c: Refundable portion of the American Opportunity Credit (Form 8863) will populate if applicable.
- Schedule 5 Line 70: Premium Tax Credit will populate if applicable.

Other Taxes

Check other taxes, Schedule 4, lines 57–64, for any information that was calculated by ProSeries.



Many clients will not have amounts on any of the lines in Schedule 4 of the Form 1040. The most common amounts for clients are:

- Those with self-employment income will see an amount appear on Line 57 (self-employment tax). A
 taxpayer's self-employment tax will automatically calculate based on Schedule SE.
 Note: Nonrefundable credits cannot offset self-employment tax.
- Repayment of the 2008 First-Time Homebuyer Credit (line 60b).
- Early withdrawal from their IRA (line 59)
- Shared responsibility payment for health care, see page 276 for more information (line 61)

Early Withdrawal Penalty Exemptions

(Schedule 4, Line 59)

If a client withdraws from their IRA or 401(k) before the age of 59 $\frac{1}{2}$, then an early withdrawal penalty of 10% is usually assessed in addition to the tax on the amount. However, some exemptions to this rule exist.

See a list of common exemptions below. For more information refer to Publication 575 (Pension and Annuity Income) and Publication 590 (Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)).

- Total and permanent disability
- Death of the IRA owner
- Medical expenses that are in excess of 10% of your adjusted gross income
- A first-time home purchase*
- Higher education costs (For more information: Internal Revenue Service article Notice 97-60 Using IRA Withdrawals to Pay Higher Education Expenses)*
- Back taxes due to a levy
- Money for medical insurance premiums**

**Limitations: only applies to early IRA withdrawals during a period in which the taxpayer was unemployed, otherwise medical premiums paid count towards itemized deductions on Schedule A.

^{*}Only applies to early withdrawals from IRAs

Schedul (Form 10		res 201
	Shown on Form 1040 A WASHINGTON	Social Security No. ***-**-1775
Other T	axes	
Att 58 Un a	elf-employment tax. tach Schedule SE reported social security and Medicare tax from Form: 4137 b 8919	58
acc	Iditional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, an counts. Attach Form 5329 if required	59
b Re	epayment of first-time homebuyer credit from Form 5405. tach Form 5405 if required ealth care: Individual responsibility. (see instructions)	б
62 Ta: a □ b □	xes from: Form 8959 Form 8960	
63 Se Fo	Instructions; enter code(s) Ection 965 net tax liability installment from 965-A	63
	Idthe amounts in the far right column. These are your tot nter here and on Form 1040, line 14	

Distributions Not Subject to Additional Tax Smart Worksheet					
Complete column B for distributions from SIMPLE plans in first 2 years. Complete column A for all other distributions, including distributions from SIMPLE plans after first 2 years.	Column A Non SIMPLE Distributions	Column B SIMPLE Distributions			
A Separation from service in or after year reaching age 55 (age 50 for qualified public safety employees). B Equal periodic payments. C Total and permanent disability. D Death (does not apply to modified endowment contracts) E Extent of medical expenses * F Paid alternate payee under a QDRO ** G Unemployed individuals for health insurance premiums * H Higher education expenses * I First home purchases * J IRS levy of the qualified plan K Qualified distributions to reservists L Other (including over age 59-1/2). * Does not apply to annuities or modified endowment contracts. *** Does not apply to distributions from IRAs or annuity or modified endowment contracts. G, H, and I apply only to IRA distributions.					

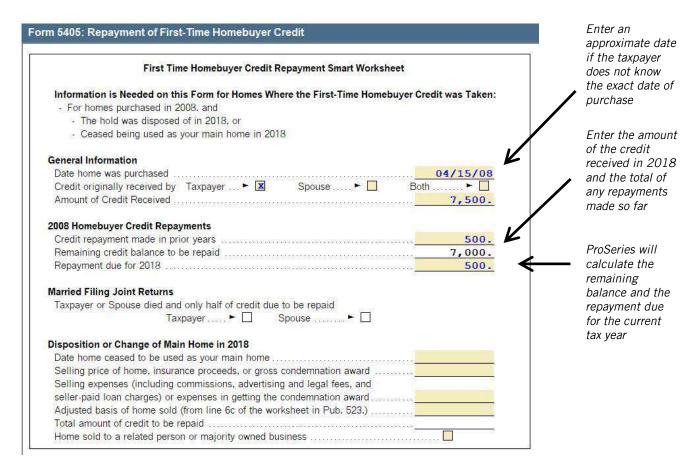
First-Time Homebuyer Credit Repayment

For taxpayers who purchased a home in 2008 and claimed the first-time homebuyer credit for that purchase, repayment of the interest-free loan must be done annually through payment of additional tax. The repayment period began in 2010 and each year 1/15 of the credit must be repaid. If the home ceases to be the taxpayer's primary home (for example, because they sold it) then the credit must be repaid in that year.

For taxpayers who received the 2008 credit and who still used the home as their primary residence at the beginning of 2018, the place to start is with the Smart Worksheet for Form 5405. You can Quickzoom to the form from Schedule 4, line 60b of Form1040. If the taxpayer still uses the home as their primary residence, all you need to do is fill out the top portion of the Smart Worksheet. You may need to do some research on prior year tax returns to determine the amount of credit received in 2008, and you may need to manually calculate the amount of credit repayment in prior years. Once this is done ProSeries will calculate the 2018 repayment and will enter it on Schedule 4, line 60b. No Form 5405 is required in this case, only the Smart Worksheet.

If the taxpayer or spouse died in 2018, or if the home ceased to be the taxpayer's main residence in 2018, then complete the remainder of the Smart Worksheet and clear any errors on Form 5405. In this case Form 5405 will be completed by ProSeries and the required repayment of the credit will be calculated and entered in Schedule 4, line 60b.

Here is an example of how to complete the First-Time Homebuyer Credit Repayment Smart Worksheet for most taxpayers:



"Kiddie" Tax

For children under age 18 and certain older children, unearned income over a certain amount is taxed using the tax rates applicable to trusts and estates. For this purpose, "unearned income" includes all taxable income other than earned income, such as taxable interest, ordinary dividends, capital gains, rents, royalties, etc. It also includes taxable Social Security benefits, pension and annuity income, taxable scholarship and fellowship grants not reported on Form W-2, unemployment compensation, alimony and income received as the beneficiary of a trust.

If the child's unearned income is more than \$2,100, and if the child is required to file a tax return, Form 8615 must be used to figure the child's tax. If scholarship income exceeds \$2,100 Form 8615 will automatically generate. Form 8615 is in scope for 2018 tax returns provided that the only unearned income is taxable scholarship income not reported on a Form W-2.

Form 8615 must be filed for the child if all the following are true:

- 1. The child's unearned income was more than \$2,100.
- 2. The child is required to file a return for the year. Note that in determining whether the child is required to file a return, taxable scholarship income is counted as earned income. Therefore, with the higher standard deduction in 2018, many Ladder Up dependents will not have a filing requirement and will not need to complete Form 8615.
- 3. The child was under age 18 at the end of the year, or was age 18 at the end of the year and did not have earned income that was more than half of his or her support, or was a full time student at least age 19 and under age 24 at the end of the tax year and did not have earned income that was more than half of the child's support.
- 4. At least one of the child's parents was alive at the end of the tax year.

The child does not file a joint return for the tax year.

Form 8615

The first question asked will be: "Was the child either 18 years old or a full-time student age 19 to 23 with investment income more than \$2,100 and their earned income did not exceed one-half of their support?"

- If you mark this as NO (i.e. because they have scholarship income exceeding \$2,100 instead of investment income), then there are no further questions prompted.
- If you mark as YES (because they do meet the age requirements and unearned income exceeds \$2,100), and their total income is under \$12,000 (below the standard deduction for single), then ProSeries will prompt you for Parent's Name, SSN, and filing status. The Form 8615 is not required (because dependent is below the filing threshold), but it will be generated.
- If you mark as YES (because they do meet the age requirements and unearned income exceeds \$2,100), and their total income is over \$13,600 (above the filing threshold), compute value for Line 6, and the "Kiddie tax" calculated will be correct (within rounding).
- If you mark as YES ((because they do meet the age requirements and unearned income exceeds \$2,100), and their total income is under \$13,600 (below filing threshold but above \$12,000, the standard deduction for single), the "Kiddie tax" should calculate at 10%, same as the individual earned income tax. The Form 8615 is not required, but it will be generated.

Illinois Tax Return

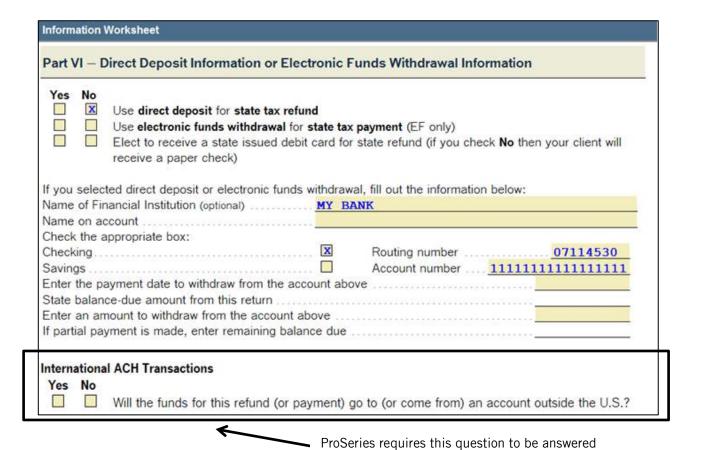
ProSeries will automatically transfer much of the necessary data for the IL-1040 from the Federal worksheets. The state return does have its own information worksheet.

To switch from the federal Form 1040 to the IL-1040, click on the "ST" button in the toolbar:



Direct Deposit Information

If the client would like to use direct deposit for any refund amounts, ensure the information has carried over and be sure to answer the question regarding whether the account is outside the U.S.





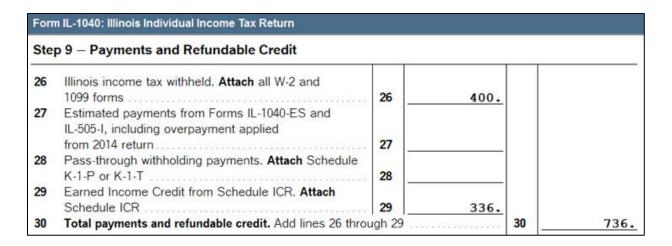
The Illinois Department of Revenue stopped issuing paper refund checks for refund amounts less than \$5.00. If the taxpayer does not provide direct deposit information and is due a refund less than \$5.00, the refund will be applied as a credit towards his 2019 tax.

Illinois Payments and Credits

Since ProSeries automatically transfers much of the necessary data to the IL-1040, the bulk of the state return is already done.

However, be sure to check for the following credits:

- **Property Tax Credit** Should transfer from federal Form 1040: double check the Federal Property Tax Worksheet. Also see *Volunteer Manual Illinois Return: IL Property Tax Credit,* on the following page, for information about entering the property number.
- If the client's dependents had **K-12 education expenses**, then you should complete the K-12 Education Expense Worksheet located in Step 3 on line 12. See page 228 for more information.
- If client received the EITC on the federal return, the amount should transfer to the IL- 1040; double check the EITC worksheet.

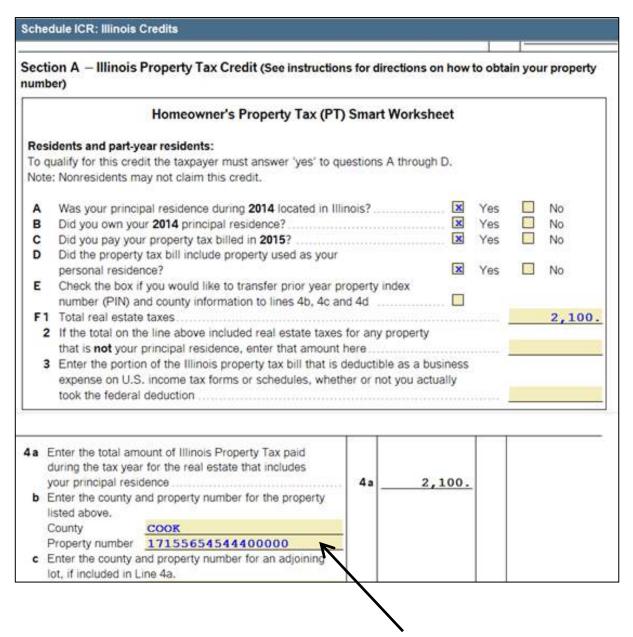


EITC Schedule

Schedule IL-EIC will calculate automatically if the client received a federal EITC.

Illinois Property Tax Credit

If you have entered real estate taxes paid on Schedule A on the Federal form (and you should do this even if the client will not itemize deductions on their federal form), then when you switch to the state an error will populate on Schedule ICR prompting you to enter the PIN and county of the property.



The Property Index Number (PIN) can be found on the property tax bill mailed to the taxpayer or can be found on the Cook County Assessor, County of DuPage, or Lake County Chief County Assessment Office websites. See the Volunteer Resource section for URLs.

K-12 Education Expense Credit

Kindergarten through twelfth grade education expenses may result in a credit equal to 25% of the expenses paid, **after the first \$250**. The total credit may not exceed \$750 in any year, regardless of the number of qualifying students.

Parents or legal guardians of a qualified student who file separate returns can each claim an education expense credit. However, they cannot both claim a credit for the same expense, and the total credit claimed between both parents or legal guardians may not exceed \$750 for the year.

Who qualifies for the credit?

This credit may be claimed by a client who:

- Was the parent or legal guardian of a full-time student who was under the age of 21 at the end of the school year
- Was an Illinois resident when the expenses were paid, and the student was an Illinois resident when the expenses were paid
- Had a student(s) who attended kindergarten (at a school that also has a first grade) through 12th grade at a public or non-public school in Illinois during the tax year.

Note: If the client home schools his or her child(ren), see the special rules in Publication 119, K-12 Education Expense Credit General Rules and Requirements for Home Schools.

What proof of expenses is required?

Receipts for qualified K-12 education expenses must be kept by the taxpayer. Each receipt must be from the school and show:

- Calendar year during which the expense was paid,
- Name and address of the school,
- Name and address of the parent or guardian,
- Name and Social Security number of the qualifying student,
- Grade in which the qualifying student was enrolled during the calendar year, and
- Total education expenses paid for each qualifying student for **tuition**, **book fees**, **and lab fees** during the calendar year.

If the client's receipt does not contain all of the above information, he cannot claim the credit. The client should contact the school to request a proper receipt.



Although receipts do not have to be submitted with the IL-1040 at the time of filing, the taxpayer needs to be able to provide them in case the state asks to see proof of expenses.

What expenses qualify for Education Expense Credit?

Expense	Qualified	NOT Qualified
Tuition , including summer school classes meeting elementary or secondary graduation requirements	X	
Tutoring or enrichment classes that do not count toward meeting education program requirements		Х
Daycare, preschool, or kindergarten expenses at a school that does not also have a first grade, college, university, independent tutoring service or trade school		X
Before and after school care , whether paid to the school or another entity or person		Х
Book Fees paid for the <u>rental</u> of books that were <u>required</u> as part of the school's education program	X	
Purchase of supplies, books or equipment that are not significantly used during the school year, such as instruments or costumes		Х
Lab Fees paid for the use of supplies, equipment, materials or instruments that were <u>required</u> as part of a lab course <u>resulting</u> in credit towards completion of the school's education program	X	
Lab Fees paid for the use of supplies, equipment, materials or instruments for a program that <u>does not result in credit</u> toward completion of the school's education program		Х
Payments made directly to a business, such as renting equipment or instruments from a store		Х
Taxpayer or Spouse K-12 education expenses		X

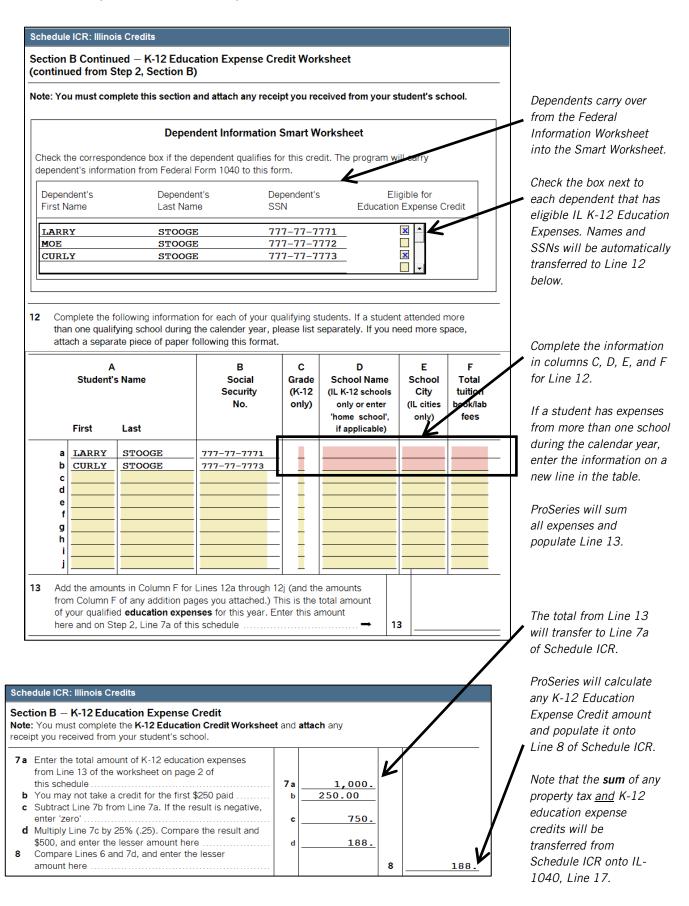
K-12 Education Expenses Credit Worksheet in ProSeries

Illinois K-12 Education Expenses information is entered on Schedule ICR.

Click on "Schedule ICR" in the Forms Bar on the left-hand side Form IL-1040: Illinois Individual Income Tax Return Where Do I Enter? Main Form General Info. Income tax paid to another state while an **⊞** PY/Non-residents Illinois resident. Attach Schedule CR . 16 Property tax and K-12 education expense credit **⊕** Credits **±** Payments Q amount from Schedule ICR. Attach Schedule ICR. 17 ⊕ Penalties Credit amount from Schedule 1299-C. **⊞** E-Filing Attach Schedule 1299-C 18 ∃ All Forms (F6) Add lines 16, 17, and 18. This is the total of your 19 Info Worksheet 19 credits. Cannot exceed the tax amount on line 15 Tax Pymt Wks 20 Tax after nonrefundable credits. Subtract line 19 from line 15 20 Form IL-1040-\ 0. Schedule CR Schedule Cl Schedule ICR

orm IL-1040

On Schedule ICR, scroll down to Line 12, Section B continued.



Instructional Materials and Supplies Credit

This credit is available to eligible educators for qualified expenses paid during the taxable year. An eligible educator is a kindergarten through twelfth grade teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide in a qualified school for at least 900 hours during a school year. A qualified school is a public school or non-public school located in Illinois (home schools are not qualified schools). Qualified expenses are those for books, supplies, equipment and other materials **used in the classroom.** The credit for an eligible educator is the amount of expenses paid in 2018 up to \$250 (up to \$500 on a joint return where the spouse is also an eligible educator with qualified expenses).

The credit was new in 2017 and for that year was reported on line 53 of Form 1299-C. By completing lines 52a (Social Security number), 52b (name of the school where the taxpayer was employed as an eligible educator) and line 52c (total qualified expenses paid in 2018 at the school on line 52b) ProSeries will calculate the credit and enter it on line 52d (line 53 will have the total credit for taxpayer and spouse). At this writing it is not known if the 2018 credit will be reported in the same way so if it is not on lines 52 and 53 of Form 1299-C first look elsewhere on that form and then check the Illinois Department of revenue website for instructions.

Use Tax

Use Tax is a sales tax that Illinois residents owe on items they purchase for use in Illinois. If the Illinois resident did not pay at least 6.25 percent sales tax on those items, he must pay the difference to the Illinois Department of Revenue. The most common purchases on which Illinois Use Tax must be collected are those made via the internet, from a mail order catalog, or made when traveling outside Illinois. Illinois residents must keep their receipts when they make these types of purchases.

Ask your client if he bought any items online, through a mail order catalog or a television promotion, or when traveling outside of Illinois that he then used in Illinois and on which he did not pay the full Illinois sales tax of 6.25%.

IF your client answers:	THEN
No, I made no such purchases	Enter \$0 in the ProSeries Use Tax Smart Worksheet, line 1a (highlighted in pink)
Yes, and I know the total amount of money I spent on such items	Enter the total in the ProSeries Use Tax Smart Worksheet, line 1a (highlighted in pink)
Yes, but I don't know how much I spent on such items	In the ProSeries Use Tax Smart Worksheet, scroll down to "Method 2" and check the box to use the UT table to calculate the amount of Use Tax liability

Use Tax Smart Worksheet Method 1: Use Tax (UT) Worksheet Complete this worksheet to report and pay your use tax on Form IL-1040. If you annual use tax liability if over \$600, you must file and pay your use tax with Form ST-44. Note: Do not include any - items for which you paid sales tax in another state (but not in another country) of Enter \$0 if the - 6.25% or more on Line 1a and - 1% or more on Line 2a client made no - sales tax you paid in another state, on line 4, for items not included in Lines 1a or 2a relevant purchases OR enter the total 1a Enter the total cost of general merchandise you purchased dollar amount to use in Illinois on which you did not pay the required provided by the client 1b Multiply Line 1a by 6.25% (.0625). Round the result to whole dollars 2a Enter the total cost of qualifying food, non-prescription drugs and medical appliances you purchased to use in Illinois on 2b Multiply Line 2a by 1% (.01). Round the result to whole dollars 0. 3 Add Lines 1b and 2b. This is your Use Tax on purchases. 0. 4 Enter the amount of sales tax you paid in another state (not in another country) on the items included on Lines 1a and 2a 5 Subtract Line 4 from Line 3. Enter the result here and on Form IL-1040. Line 22 (if the result is less than zero, enter zero) Method 2: UT Table If there are no major purchases and do not have receipts to figure purchases, use the table If the client made to estimate annual Illinois Use Tax liability. relevant purchases but does not know AGI (from IL-1040, Line 1) Use Tax the total amount. \$0 - \$10,000 \$3 vou can chose to \$10,001 - \$20,000 \$9 check this box \$20,001 - \$30,000 \$15 \$30,001 - \$40,000 \$40.001 - \$50.000 \$50,001 - \$75,000 \$75,001 - \$100,000 \$52 Above \$100,000 Multiply AGI by 0.06% (0.0006) ► 🔲 To use UT table calculate Use Tax, check here Use tax amount based on table above Keep a copy of this smart worksheet with your income tax records.

Illinois Refund or Amount Due

The remainder of the Illinois tax return will be completed based on the federal refund/tax due option selected by the client.

Step 11 — Underpayment of Estimated Tax Penalty and Donations 33	For	n IL-1040: Illinois Individual Income Tax Return		
estimated tax a Check if at least two-thirds of your federal gross income is from farmling b Check if you or your spouse are 65 or older and permanently living in a nursing home c Check if your income was not received evenly during the year and you annualized your income on Form IL-2210. Attach Form IL-2210 d Check if you were not required to file an Illinois individual income tax return in previous tax year	Ste	o 11 — Underpayment of Estimated Tax Penalty and Donations		
a Check if at least two-thirds of your federal gross income is from farming	33	일이 2002년 (1903년 1902년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1902년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 1903년 (1903년 1903년 1		
income is from farming	-			
b Check if you or your spouse are 65 or older and permanently living in a nursing home	а			
c Check if your income was not received evenly during the year and you annualized your income on Form IL-2210. Attach Form IL-2210	h			
c Check if your income was not received evenly during the year and you annualized your income on Form IL-2210. Attach Form IL-2210. d Check if you were not required to file an Illinois individual income tax return in previous tax year	D	**************************************		
the year and you annualized your income on Form IL-2210. Attach Form IL-2210		portraining in a rial only in order		
Form IL-2210. Attach Form IL-2210	Š			
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individual income tax return in previous tax year	d	Check if you were not required to file an Illinois		
Step 12 — Refund or Amount You Owe 36	11500	- [18] C (2) (18] (18] (18] (18] (18] (18] (18] (18]		
Step 12 — Refund or Amount You Owe 36	34	Voluntary charitable donations. Attach Schedule G 34		
36 If you have an overpayment on line 31 and this amount is greater than line 35, subtract line 35 from line 31. This is your remaining overpayment	35	Total penalty and donations. Add lines 33 and 34	35	
Iine 35, subtract line 35 from line 31. This is your remaining overpayment	Ste	o 12 — Refund or Amount You Owe		
37 Amount from line 36 you want refunded to you. Check one box on line 38. See instructions 37 627. 38 I choose to receive my refund by direct deposit - Complete to direct deposit your refund Routing number Checking or Savings Account number Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card paper check	36	- [1] 전통하다 : [1] - [1]	36	627.
I choose to receive my refund by direct deposit - Complete to direct deposit your refund Routing number Checking or Savings Account number Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card paper check	37	Amount from line 36 you want refunded to you. Check one box on line 38.	[E	
direct deposit - Complete to direct deposit your refund Routing number Checking or Savings Account number Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card paper check		See instructions	37	627.
Routing number Checking or Savings Account number Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card paper check	38	I choose to receive my refund by		
Account number Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card paper check				
☐ Illinois Individual Income Tax debit card ☐ paper check		- : [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1]		
☑ paper check				
39 Amount will be applied to estimated tax. Subtract line 37 from line 36	20	_ r-r	20	
경향하는	7.00	그림에 있었다면 하는 그리고 있다면 살아 집에 되는 아내가 그리고 있다면 하나요? 그런 아내는 내려가 얼마나 아내가 되었다면 하는데 나를 살아 하는데 아니다면 하나 나를 하는데 하나 나를 하는데 하는데 하나 나를 하는데 하나를 하는데 하나 나를 하는데	39	
40 If you have an underpayment on line 32, add lines 32 and 35. or If you have an overpayment on line 31 and this amount is less	40			
than line 35, subtract line 31 from line 35. This is the amount you owe 40			40	

Error Check and Save

ERROR CHECK

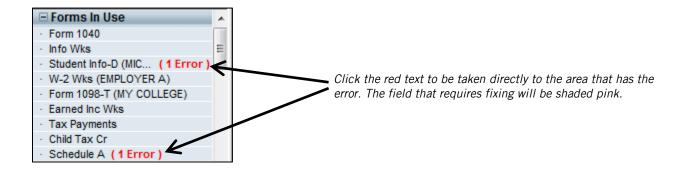
Run an error check on the ProSeries file before placing the client's name on the waiting list for the checker.



You must run the Error Check separately in the federal and Illinois returns. Use the "FED" and "ST" buttons in the Client Data Toolbar to toggle between the returns.



In the Form Bar, errors will appear in red. Clicking on the red text will take you to the location of the error, which will be marked in pink.



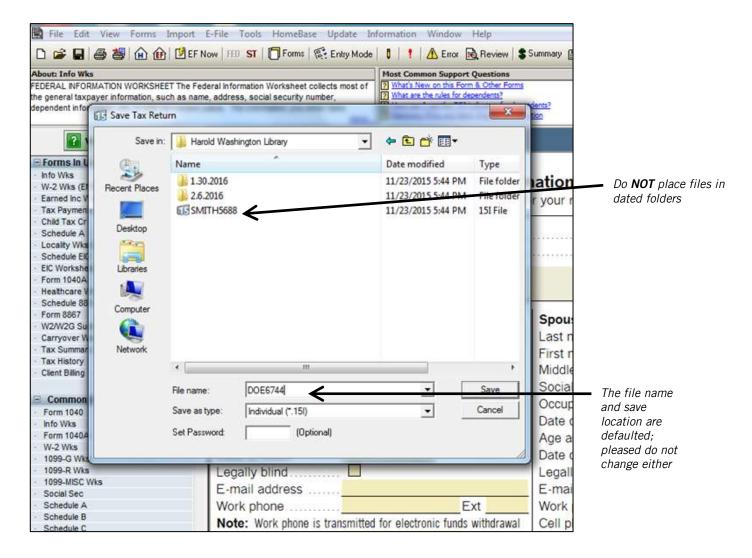
There are a few errors which can be ignored:



- PTIN error: ProSeries has trouble recognizing Ladder Up's Site Identification Numbers (SIDN), but this PTIN error will not affect the return. Do not attempt to clear this error.
- When e-filing for a taxpayer with an ITIN, the Illinois return generates an error, which is also safe to ignore.

FINAL SAVE

After you have completed the client's federal and state returns and corrected any errors after running an error check on both returns, save the client's tax return.

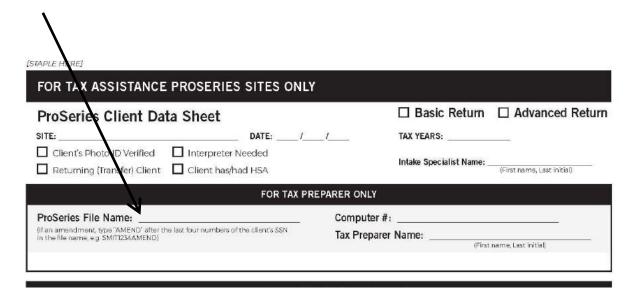


- For amended returns, type "AMEND" after the last four numbers of the client's SSN in the file name, e.g., STOO6789AMEND.16i.
- For prior-year returns, save to the same location as current year returns.

Client Forms and Quality Review

TAP Client Data Sheet: Tax Preparer Area

Completely fill out the **Tax Preparer** area near the top of the ProSeries Client Data Sheet. This information will help the checker locate the client's ProSeries file and ask you any questions he may have about the return.



Additional Notes:

- Fill in the site name and date at the top (Intake Specialist should have done this) if these fields are not yet completed.
- If the *Client's Photo ID Verified* box is not yet checked off, ask the client for their photo ID and check the box to indicate it is complete.
- Do not complete any parts of the Quality Review Checker area of the Client Data Sheet.
- DO <u>NOT</u> TELL THE CLIENT THEIR REFUND OR AMOUNT DUE. If the checker makes changes to the return, these dollar amounts may change. If the client asks, tell them that the checker will give him the final amounts once he double-checks the return.

Send the Return to Quality Review Checking

The client's intake packet, all documents, IDs, and SS/ITIN cards should all be handed back to the client to hold onto. The client will then be given a Blue Card, and will be asked to wait in line for a checker to perform a quality review and then finalize their returns.

Note:

Check with your Site Leader about your site's specific process for placing a client in line for a checker

.

Quality Review Check List

Checkers must perform all steps on this Quality Review Checklist for every return reviewed.

1. Checl	k that all client forms have been completed
	Ensure that the return you are checking is within your certification level
	ProSeries Client Data Sheet is completed
	Make sure that the client's photo ID has been verified and that the site name and date have been filled in
	IRS Intake Sheet (Form 13614-C) – all grey boxes should be completed.
	Ensure that all questions have been answered and all "Unsure" responses in Parts III, IV, or V are corrected to
	say "Yes" or "No". Once a correction is made, ask the client to initial the correction.
	TAP Client Consent and Disclosure: Signed and dated
2 Povio	w the Federal Information Worksheet in ProSeries
	Part I: Ask the client and spouse to verify their identities and contact information
_	Part II: Confirm that Filing Status is correct (See Mini Manual: Filing Status)
	Part III: Verify that dependency was properly determined for every dependent listed (i.e. that each person passes the 4 tests – age, relationship, residency, support) and that the correct information has been entered (SSNs/ITINs based on supporting documents, date of birth, and other details).
	Part IV: Double check the responses to the EITC questions
	Part V: Make sure the site code corresponds to your site. See the site codes on the back of this checklist.
	Note: When a client's file is transferred from the previous year, the site code remains the same. If the client is now at a different TAP site, then the side code needs to be updated.
	Part VI: Confirm e-file or paper file with the client (only current-year and one-year-prior, non-amended returns can be e-filed)
	- Date PIN Entered: Enter today's date (only for e-file)
	- Near the top of the ProSeries Client Data Sheet, indicate paper or e-file in the checker section
	- If the client has an Identity Protection PIN, make sure it is entered at the bottom of Part VI
	Part VII: No values should be filled in
	Part VIII: Verify any Direct Deposit information
	 If the client wants to split their refund or purchase a savings bond, confirm account and/or savings bond information on Form 8888
	Part IX: Ladder Up does not do electronic funds withdrawal. For information on options to pay an amount owed, provide the client with a "Paying Your Tax Bill" handout, available in the site binder.
	Part X: If the taxpayer and/or spouse have education expenses, ensure that the proper boxes are marked
	Part XI: No values should be filled in – See the site leader if the client is not a full-year Illinois resident
	Part XII: No values should be filled in
3 Revie	w all income documents
	Verify that all tax documents have been entered into ProSeries correctly.
	Verify that all documents entered into ProSeries correspond to the correct tax year and the correct taxpayer.
4. Revie	w the Healthcare Worksheet
	Verify that coverage has been recorded for the taxpayer, spouse, and any dependents.
	Verify that any exemptions have been noted for Code A (Affordability) or Code C (ITIN holders).
5. Addre	ess any red errors on the Federal and Illinois returns (if necessary, re-launch the Education Expense Optimizer)

Quality Review Check List, Cont.

6. Revie	ew Form 1040 in ProSeries to verify that:
	All income is entered
	All appropriate credits have been calculated
	Refund or taxes owed is consistent with the taxpayer's situation
	Related to health insurance, the Premium Tax Credit and/or Shared Responsibility Payments have been properly calculated
7. Print	the client's Federal and Illinois returns. If e-filing, print a single copy; if paper filing, print 2 copies.
8. Revie	ew Form 1040 with the client. Have the client verify that personal information is correct. Be sure to explain the ng:
	The client is responsible for the information on the return
	How the return is being processed: e-file vs. paper file
	How much the refund is or how much money is owed
	How the refund will be received – by direct deposit or paper check in the mail (Note that Illinois will not issue checks < \$5)
	What to do if money is owed
9. Assei	mble the return.
For e-fi	le clients
	In addition to the client return, please print an extra copy of the e-file signature pages, Forms 8879 and IL-8453, in ProSeries. Do this by right clicking "Print EF Signature Forms" in the print screen.
	- <u>Be sure that the client signs in the correct spot</u> . Both Ladder Up and the client keep signed copies of each e-file form
For par	per file clients
	For the mailing copy, assemble the return for the client:
	- Staple a copy of all W-2 and 1099 forms that show withholdings to the middle of the first page of both the Federal and Illinois returns
	- Have the client (and spouse, if filing jointly) sign the returns to be mailed
	- Place the Federal and Illinois returns in separate envelopes and apply the correct mailing labels, which are available in the site binder
10. Fina	al Stone
	Fill out the tax records envelope

- Complete the "Quality Review Checker" section on the ProSeries Client Data Sheet.
- Initial the back of Form 13614-C (IRS Intake Sheet).
- Staple the client packet in the order shown under *Packet Order* on the ProSeries Client Data Sheet and place the packet where the Site Leader has indicated they are being collected.
- 12. If there were preparation errors, fill out a checker feedback sheet that will be given to the volunteer preparer.

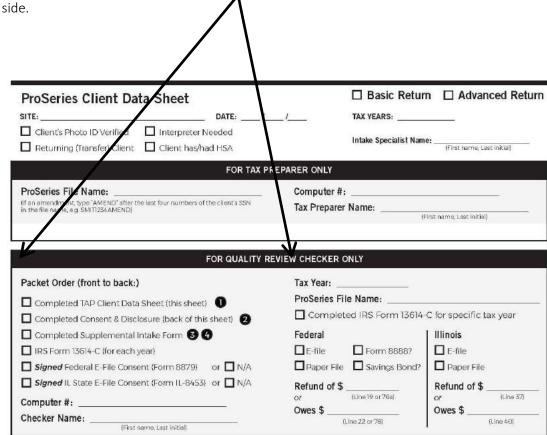
Site Codes

Casa Esperanza	22
Chicago Public Library - Austin	14
Chicago Public Library – Richard M. Daley	4
Chicago Public Library – Harold Washington	15
DeVry Education Group	9
Kennedy-King College	10
Olive-Harvey College	7
Plainfield Township Community Center	8
TAP Mobile Site	29
Unity Junior High School	24
WIC Food Center - Armitage	20
WIC Food Center - Diversey	1
WIC Food Center - Kedzie	18
WIC Food Center - Western	17
Wilbur Wright College	23
Drop and Go	28

Site Codes for Part V (double check this, especially if client file was transferred)

Client Form

TAP ProSeries Client Data Sheet: Quality Review Area Completely fill out the **Quality Review Checker** area near the middle of the TAP ProSeries Client Data Sheet, and make sure all of the boxes are checked on the left-hand



E-file Signature Forms

Federal Form 8879

For couples with a filing status of "Married Filing Jointly," both spouses must sign this form.

Department of the Treasury	# #		
Internal Revenue Service	► Go to www.irs.gov/Form887	79 for the latest information.	
Submission Identification	n Number (SID)		
Taxpayer's name		Social security number	
Spouse's name		Spouse's social securit	ty number
			14.000000122000
	n Information — Tax Year Ending Dec		11 0000 H
	ncome (Form 1040, line 7; Form 1040NR, line		1
	I040, line 15; Form 1040NR, line 61) tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099 (Forn		2
	140, line 20a; Form 1040-SS, Part I, line 13a;	하는 경험적으로 막혀야 한 과 연락을 받았다. 경우하는 경우하면 하는 경영에 하는 사람들이 되었다면 하는 사람들이 모든 사람들이 되었다.	4
	e (Form 1040, line 22; Form 1040NR, line 75)		5
	Declaration and Signature Authorizat		
electronic income tax return Taxpayer's PIN: check I authorize as my signatur	ERO firm name re on my tax year 2018 electronically filed inc	to enter or generate my PIN	below is my signature for my
Lwill enter my	DIM on many planetures are part to track 2010 al		
entering your o	Plin as my signature on my tax year 2016 ei own PIN and your return is filed using the Pra		k this box only if you are
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entering your o	own PIN and your return is filed using the Pra	actitioner PÍN method. The FRO must com	k this box only if you are
entering your o	own PIN and your return is filed using the Pra	actitioner PÍN method. The FRO must com	k this box only if you are
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entering your of Your signature ► Spouse's PIN: check of □ I authorize □ as my signatur □ I will enter my	own PIN and your return is filed using the Pra	Date ► to enter or generate my PIN End to enter or generate my PIN End do come tax return.	k this box only if you are plete Part III below. Iter five digits, but in tenter all zeros k this box only if you are
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Illinois Form 8879

For couples with a filing status of "Married Filing Jointly," both spouses must sign this form.

8	Ilinois Department of F IL-8453 Illino Do not mail Form IL-8453 to th	ois Individual		Submission ID ectronic Filing Declarati it is requested for review.)	on
	Provide taxpayer inform				
	name and middle initial Spouse's first na	ame (and last name if differe	nt) Last name	Social Security number	
Print or					
уре ман	ng address			Spouse's Social Security number ()	
City		State	ZIP	Daytime phone number	
	Complete information f		68	8	0.22
	ncome from Form IL-1040, Line 11	, or Schedule NR, Ste	p 5, Line 51	1	1 00
	rom Form IL-1040, Line 13 s Income Tax withheld from Form I	1-1040 Line 26 only	(enter "0" if none)	2	100
	payment from Form IL-1040, Line	10.2-1	(enter o in none)	4	1 00
Total	amount due from Form IL-1040, Li	ine 40		5	1_00
	status: Single/head of house			ng separatelyWidowed withdrawal information (Optic	_
1 Elect 2 Name tep 4:		l 00 d signature (Sign		eting Step 2 and, if applicable,	
	- CONSTRUCTION STATE AND ADDRESS - CONTRACTOR - CONTRACTO	200 E C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	25000000 00 V2000 A0	spouse as an agent to receive the refu	- 1 1 1 1 1 1
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☐ I de	o not want direct deposit of my ref	und, or an electronic f	unds withdrawal (direct	debit) of my balance due.	
riginator (nd accom	ERO) are identical. To the best of ni panying information may be sent to	ny knowledge, my retu o IDOR by my ERO. I	rm is true, correct, and cauthorize IDOR to inform	information I provided to my electronic recomplete. I consent that my return, this on my ERO and/or the transmitter when no many be corrected and retransmitted if	declaration, ny return has
ign					
ere Your	signature	Date	Spouse's signat	ture (if joint return, both must sign) Date	
declare thave follow	nat I have examined this taxpayer's	s electronic Form IL-1 m and declare, under	040, the information on	eclaration and signature this Form IL-8453, and accompanying at to the best of my knowledge the taxpo	ayer's return
ERO's	s signature		Date	Check if paid preparer: (See	instructions.)
RO Firm's	s name or your name if self-employed			Your Social Security number (SSN) or P	TIN —
nlv	g address			Federal employer identification number (FEIN)
	T-127				
City		State	ZIP	Phone number	

Client Refund or Amount Due

Preparers should refrain from telling the client his expected refund or amount due, as the values may change if the checker makes any adjustments to the return. All tax volunteers should still be aware of a taxpayer's options.

Client Refund

Options for taxpayers receiving a refund are:

- Receive direct deposit into one bank account in his own name for the federal and/or Illinois refunds
- Use Form 8888 for a federal refund to either:
 - Split the refund into more than one bank account
 - Receive a portion of the refund via direct deposit and use another portion to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond
- Receive a paper check for a federal amount and sometimes an Illinois amount
 - The Illinois Department of Revenue will no longer issue paper refund checks for refund amounts less than \$5.00. If the taxpayer does not provide direct deposit information and is due a refund smaller than \$5.00, the refund will be applied as a credit towards his taxes in the next tax year.

See *Volunteer Manual – Special Topics: Allocation of Refund* for information on completing Form 8888 for your client.

Amount Due

If a client owes either federal or Illinois taxes and is <u>able to pay in full</u>, he should be advised to do so by the filing deadline, which is April 15, 2019, for tax year 2018.

- Ladder Up advises clients to mail a check or money order with the appropriate payment voucher(s) printed with his returns.
- Ladder Up advises *against* opting for electronic funds withdrawal in Part VIII of the Federal Information Worksheet and Part VI of the Illinois Information Worksheet. User error can create a bad situation for the client if the withdrawal date is incorrectly entered.

If a client owes either federal or Illinois taxes and is <u>unable to pay in full</u>, he should be advised to <u>pay as much of his liability as possible before the filing deadline</u> of April 15, 2019, for tax year 2018 in order to minimize interest and penalties. Options for paying the remaining amount are below.

For federal amounts due:

- Check or money order payments:
 - Do not attach the payment to the return
 - Make the check or money order payable to "United States Treasury"
 - On checks, write "2018 Form 1040" in the memo or "For" section
 - Write name, address, daytime phone number, and SSN/ITIN on the payment
 - If filing a joint return, enter the SSN/ITIN shown first on the return.
 - Submit the payments with a properly completed Form 1040V, Payment Voucher
 - No cash payments will be accepted

- Credit Card Payments
 - American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa cards are accepted
 - A convenience fee will be charged by the service providers
 - Visit IRS.gov/payments
 - Electronic Funds Withdrawal
 - Ladder Up does not offer this option via e-file.
 - EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System)
 - Taxpayers can use this tool to pay their Federal taxes but they must enroll first. For more information, visit IRS.gov/payments or call EFTPS customer service at 1-800-555-3453 (for individual payments) or 1-800-555-4477 (to get an enrollment form).
 - IRS Direct Pay (to pay from a checking or savings account with no fee)
 - http://www.irs.gov/Payments/direct-pay
 - What if the taxpayer cannot pay?
 - Can you pay in full within 120 days? If you can pay the full amount you owe in 120 days, call 1-800-829-1040 to establish your request to pay in full. If you can do this, you can avoid paying the fee to set up an installment agreement. Instead of calling, you can also apply online.
 - Applying online for a payment agreement. If your balance due is not more than \$50,000, you can apply online for a payment agreement instead of filing Form 9465. To do that, go to IRS.gov and enter "Online Payment Agreement" or "OPA" in the "Search" box.
 - The taxpayer can request an extension of time to pay if paying the tax by the due date will be an undue hardship. For details see Form 1127 (out of scope).

For Illinois amounts due:

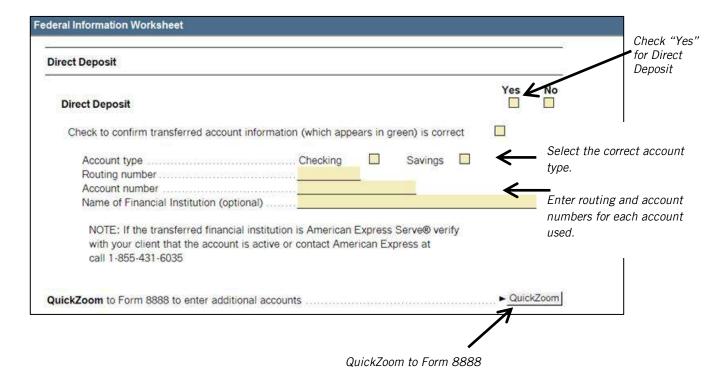
- Complete Form CPP-1 (Payment Installment Plan Request) and mail it with the return
- Pay the remaining amount due by credit car

Special Topics

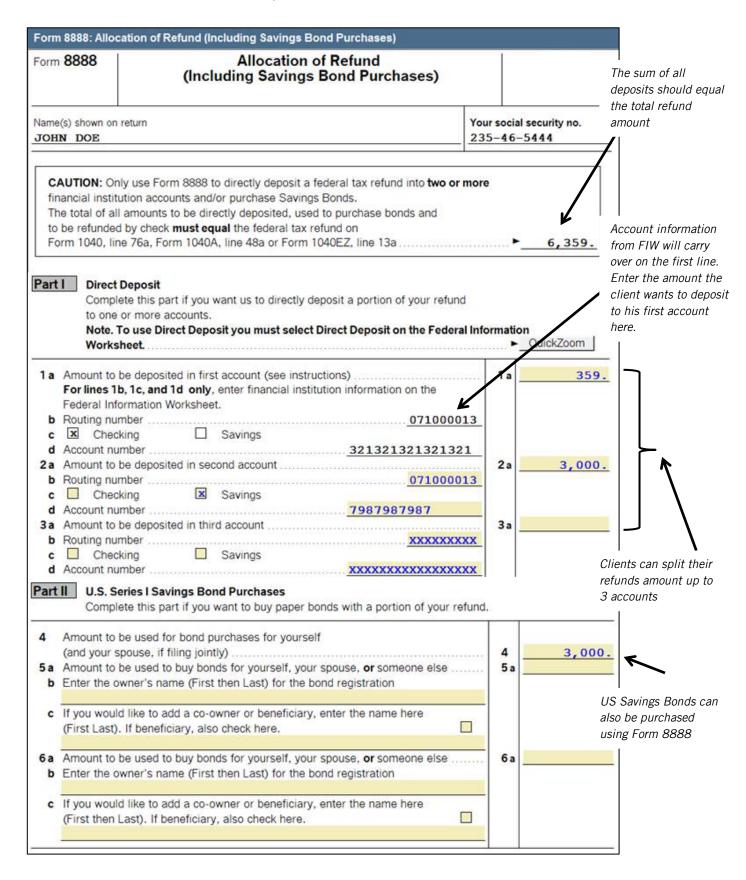
Allocation of Refund – Form 8888

Upon receiving a refund, the client can decide to allocate money to not only his savings account but also towards purchase of a savings bond. If a client is interested in doing this, mark the appropriate places in Parts I-II of Form 8888.

In Part VIII of the Federal Information Worksheet, you will see a QuickZoom button towards the bottom that will take you to Form 8888.



Form 8888 - Allocation of Refund, Cont.



Amended Returns – Form 1040X

If a client needs to correct his return that was already submitted and processed by the IRS, he will need to prepare an amended return. However the IRS may correct mathematical or clerical errors on a return and may accept returns without certain required forms or schedules. In these instances, there's no need to amend your return. In instances where there is a change to filing status, income, deductions or credits, the federal Form 1040X will need to be completed as a starting point and depending on the change(s) made on the federal return, the Illinois return may need to be amended as well, which will mean completing Form IL-1040-X.

Completing Amended Returns in ProSeries

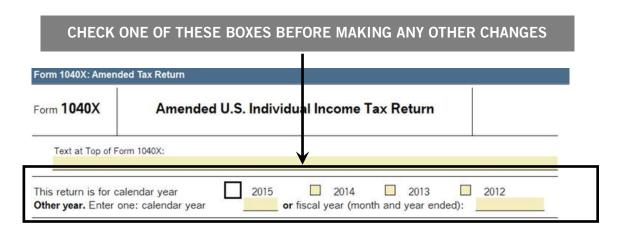
Form 1040X is designed to capture information about the changes being made to the taxpayer's original return. There are many different aspects of the tax return that may need to be corrected, from filing status to number of exemptions to additional income that was not originally reported.

- 1. Ask the client why he needs to amend his return. Common reasons include:
 - The original return did not include all income documents
 - The original return had errors (e.g., incorrect filing status)
 - The original return did not include all dependents
- 2. Open the client's original return. You may need to run a search on your site's hard drive to locate the file. Also, be sure to ask the year of the return that needs to be amended, as it is possible that it may be from a prior year. If the client did not have their return prepared by Ladder Up you may need to recreate the original return that needs to be amended. Read additional instructions below if the original return needs to be created.

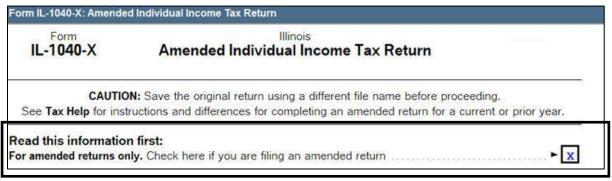
Tips for recreating the original return:

- The original return that you create must exactly mimic the one that was filed with the IRS. This means math errors, entries on incorrect lines, or other types of errors must still appear. Since the software will not allow such obvious errors it is sometimes necessary to use the override function. Use the override function on the Form 1040 to enter incorrect information.
- When finished, check very carefully that the return you prepared exactly matches what was filed in all respects, including the Illinois return if that was also incorrect. If you fail to do this, the form 1040X will not populate correctly when you open it, and the work will need to be redone.
- When you are satisfied that you have exactly duplicated the return as filed, save it using the standard file name but with "FORAMEND" added immediately after the last 4 digits of the filename. This file should be stored in the "WILL RETURN" folder in case it is needed later. Don't close the file after saving it, because you will need it for the next step.
- 3. Once you have opened the client's original return, or saved a copy of the original return that you just prepared, go to the File menu and select "Save As".
- **4.** Change the name of the client's file by adding "AMEND" to the end of the file name. Example: ERIC3456AMEND. **Be sure to save it in the current site and date location and not in the location of the original return.**

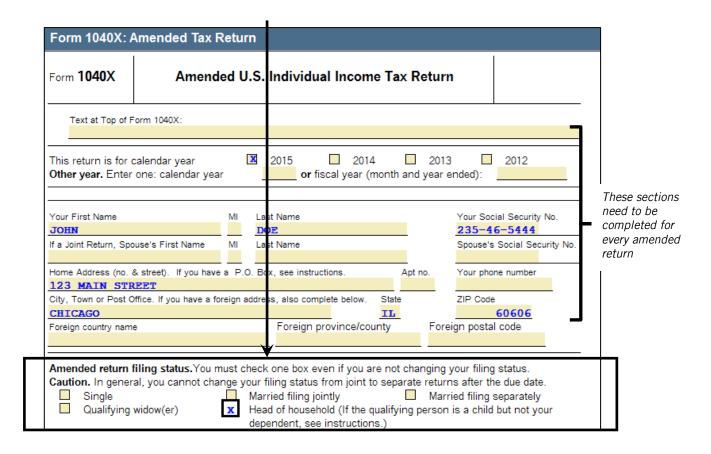
- 5. Navigate to Form 1040X by locating it in the Miscellaneous section of the forms list at the left of the ProSeries screen or click Forms in the toolbar, then Select and then enter 1040X in the Find box..
- 6. Once the Form 1040X opens, at the top of the form, <u>select the year</u> for which the amendment must be made. By checking the box for the year to be amended, ProSeries will track all changes that you make as you work to correct the original return. Once you click the box, you will see the client's personal information auto-fill. **Note:** although ProSeries makes it look like you can do amendments of prior year returns in the current year software, this is not the case and you should always use the version of ProSeries for the year that you are amending.



- 7. Now that you have started the federal Form 1040X, click on the "ST" button in the top toolbar to switch to the Illinois return.
- 8. In the Forms Bar on the left side of the screen, from the "Misc Tax Forms" category, select "IL-1040-X".
- 9. Towards the top of the Form IL-1040-X, check the box to indicate that the client is filing an amended return.



- 10. Click on the "FED" button in the top toolbar to switch back to the federal return. You may now make the changes to correct the client's return.
 - Your change(s) may include adding an income document, a dependent, or expenses.
 - Correcting the filing status: Open the Form 1040X and scroll down just below the client's personal information you will see a section to mark the corrected filing status.



Correcting the filing status, cont:

- If the taxpayer is changing from Married Filing Separately to Married Filing Jointly: Generally, if spouses file a joint return, they have joint and several liability, meaning they are both responsible for the tax and any interest or penalties due on the return, as well as any understatement of tax that may become due later. If one spouse fails to pay, the other spouse may have to.
- If the taxpayer is changing to Head of Household status: If the qualifying person is a child but not the taxpayer's dependent, enter the child's name and "QND" in Part III.
- If the taxpayer is only providing additional information: If the taxpayer is not changing any of the dollar amounts that appeared on his original return, he should follow these steps:
 - Check the box for the calendar year the taxpayer is amending
 - Complete name, address and SSN
 - Check a box in Part II, if applicable, for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund
 - Complete Part III (Explanation of Changes)

As you make changes to the original return, you will see figures fill into the Form 1040X. There are 3 columns in the 1040X:

- A. Original amount
- B. Net change
- C. Correct amount

Inc	ome and Deductions (see instructions)	as previously adjusted	(decrease) — expl. in Pt III	
1	Adjusted gross income. If net operating loss			10.000
2	(NOL) carryback is included, check here	10,000.	0.	10,000.
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1	6,300. 3,700.	2,950.	9,250. 750.
4	Exemptions. If changing, complete Part I on page 2	3,700.	-2,950.	750.
-	and enter the amount from line 29	8,000.	0.	8,000
5	Taxable income. Subtract line 4 from line 3	-4,300.	-2,950.	-7,250
ax	Liability			
6	Tax. Enter method used to figure tax			
MEN	Table	0.	0	0.
6	Table Credits. If general business credit carryback			0.
NES-	Table Credits. If general business credit carryback is included, check here	0.	0.	0
7	Table Credits. If general business credit carryback is included, check here Subtract line 7 from line 6. If zero or less, enter -0	0.	0.	0.
7	Table Credits. If general business credit carryback is included, check here	0.	0.	0. 0. 0.

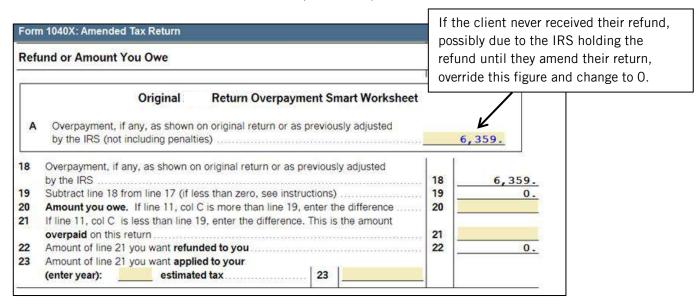
- 11. Once you have made all necessary corrections, return to the Form 1040X and scroll to Part III (Explanation of Changes). On every Form 1040X, you must complete Part III to provide the reason(s) why the taxpayer is amending his return. Type in the reason sample answers include:
 - "Received another Form W-2 after initial filing of tax return"
 - "Did not list one of my qualified dependents on original return"

Part III	Explanation of changes. In the space provided below, tell us why you are filing Form 1040X
► Attac	ch any supporting documents and new or changed forms and schedules.
FILING	STATUS WAS CHANGED TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

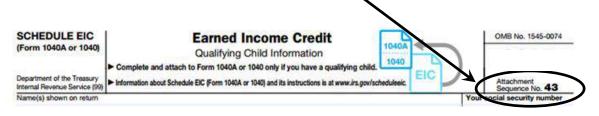
<u>Note</u>: Only three items are addressed directly on the 1040X. (1) Marking the year to initiate the auto-filling of the Form 1040X by the software (2) Indicating the reason for amending the return and (3) Changing filing status (if applicable)

To make any other changes you must go back to the old forms and add additional missing documents (W-2s, etc.) or modify the information directly. All changes will subsequently populate in the 1040X.

12. Review the Form 1040X to determine if the client now owes money or is due money. Scroll to the "Refund or Amount You Owe" section of the 1040X (lines 17-22).



- 13. The client **must sign and mail** in his Form 1040X and include all forms and schedules that were affected by the correction(s) made.
 - a. All amended returns must be paper filed.
 - b. Please make sure the client signs the completed Form 1040X.
 - c. The IRS advises that affected schedules and forms be attached to the Form 1040X according to the "Attachment Sequence Number" shown in the upper right-hand corner of all schedules and forms. If the taxpayer has supporting statements, arrange them in the same order as the forms and schedules they support and attach them last.



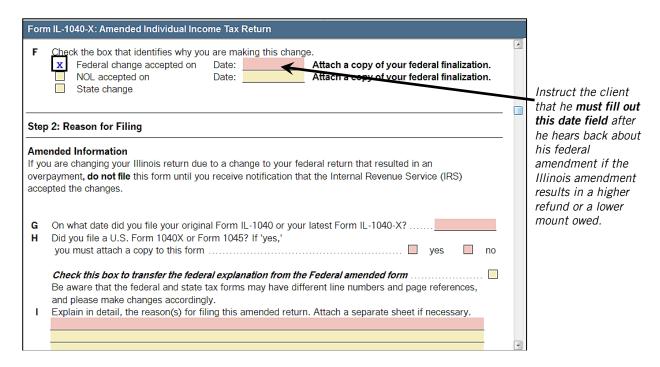
- d. Attach to the front of the Form 1040X:
 - A copy of any Forms W-2, W-2c (a corrected Form W-2), and 2439 that support changes made on the return
 - A copy of any Form W-2G and 1099-R that support changes made on the return, but only if tax was withheld
 - A copy of any Forms 1042S, SSA-1042S, RRB-1042S, and 8288-A that support changes made on the return
- e. If the client owes money: To avoid penalties and interest (or further penalties and interest), the client should mail in his payment along with his Form 1040X. Do not attach the payment to anything in the packet; simply enclose it in the envelope. Checks are payable to "United States Treasury" and the taxpayer should write his name, address, daytime phone number, and SSN/ITIN on his payment.

14. If the change(s) made to the taxpayer's federal return affects the Illinois return, the taxpayer must complete form IL-1040-X. You will now print out the Illinois amendment for the client. Click on the "ST" button and navigate to the IL-1040-X.



Although you will complete most of the IL-1040-X for the taxpayer, make sure he understands that if it results in a higher Illinois refund or lower Illinois payment that it cannot be mailed until the federal 1040X changes are accepted.

- 15. You will notice that the IL-1040-X has a number of errors flagging questions that must be answered:
 - F: Check the box that identifies why you are making this change
 - o Most clients file an IL-1040-X because of a change made on their federal returns.
 - The box for "Federal change accepted on MM/DD/YYYY" will need to be checked, although the taxpayer will have to write in the date at a later time if the amendment results in a higher Illinois refund or a lower amount due.
 - o In that case the client will need to wait until he receives word from the IRS about the status of his amended return in order to fill in the date field. Please highlight this date field on the printed IL-1040X and instruct the client that he must fill in the date his federal change was accepted.



- G: On what date did you file your original Form IL-1040?
 - O You can ask the client when his original return was prepared and then enter that date. If Ladder Up prepared the original return you can determine this from the date the client visited.
- H: Did you file a US Form 1040X? If yes, you must attach a copy to this form.
 - o Check the "Yes" box and remember to print an extra copy of the federal Form 1040X to include with the IL-1040-X.
- I: Explain, in detail, the reason(s) for filing this amended return. If you want to transfer the explanation you wrote on the federal 1040X, check the box next to the question.

- 16. Once you have finished preparing the IL-1040-X, you can print the forms that the client needs to mail in to the Illinois Department of Revenue:
 - Form IL-1040-X make sure the taxpayer signs all necessary forms
 - Any Illinois forms or schedules that were affected by the amendment. Attach the proper supporting documents according to the following list:

IF you corrected:	THEN attach:
Line 1 Federal adjusted gross income	US Form 1040 or 1040X US Form 1040 Schedules C, E, and F, if filed, for loss years Proof of federal finalization
Line 3 Other additions	Schedule M with amended figures and any other required support listed on Schedule M
Line 5 Social Security benefits and certain retirement plan income	US Form 1040, Page 1, with amended figures Form W-2, if applicable Form SSA-100, 1099-R, or RRB-1099, if applicable
Line 6 Illinois Income Tax overpayment (included in US 1040, Line 10)	US Form 1040, Page 1, with amended figures
Line 7 Other subtractions	Schedule M with amended figures and any other required support listed on Schedule M
Line 10 Exemption allowance	US Form 1040X Proof of federal finalization
Line 18 Property tax and K-12 education expense credit from Schedule ICR	Schedule ICR with amended figures and any other required support listed on Schedule ICR Receipts for home school expenses
Line 26 Illinois Income Tax withheld	All W-2 and 1099 forms, Form IL-4852, or letter, on company letterhead, from employer

17. Please give the client the "Amended Return Instructions" sheet that Ladder Up has prepared – the document reviews next steps for the client.

Where to File Federal Form 1040X

Again, Form 1040X must be mailed in by the taxpayer - Form 1040X cannot be e-filed.

If the taxpayer is filing Form 1040X in response to a notice received from the IRS, the IRS notification will contain the correct mailing address for Form 1040X and its attachments.

Otherwise, if the taxpayer has not received a notice from the IRS, the mailing address for Form 1040X and its attachments is:

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Center Fresno, CA 93888-0422

How to File Form IL-1040-X

Filing the state amendment depends on whether additional taxes are owed or the client is due a refund.

If additional taxes are owed:

The client should mail the following items to the address below:

- 1. A copy of the Form 1040X submitted to the IRS
- 2. A copy of the check sent to the IRS to pay the tax due
 - a. If the client was not able to pay the federal tax due, they should still file the IL-1040-X
- 3. Any other documents listed in the table above as applicable

Note: The IRS and ILDOR will send a separate letter with the amount of interest and penalties owed.

If a refund is due:

The client must file the Federal Form 1040X and wait to receive a federal finalization letter in the mail. When the IRS approval is received, the client must:

- 4. Fill in the date that the federal change was accepted in question F on page 1 of the IL-1040-X
- 5. Attach a copy of the federal finalization
- 6. Attach a copy of the Form 1040X submitted to the IRS
- 7. Attach any other documents listed in the table above as applicable

The client will mail the Form IL-1040-X packet to:

Illinois Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 19007
Springfield, IL 62794-9007

Special Process for Certain Veterans

In July of 2018 the Department of Defense mailed letters to a number of veterans who had received lump sum payments due to disability discharge from the service. The letters describe a special process for filing a 1040X to receive a refund on taxes paid. If you see one of these, read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. Note that the 1040X is non-standard and typically involves only a few lines that can be completed by hand without regard to the original tax return (which may be from as far back as 1991). Also, taxpayers typically have a year from the date of the letter to file for a refund, even for very old returns.

Filing on Behalf of a Deceased Relative

Protecting Taxpayer's Identity

Volunteers need to take steps to protect a taxpayer's identity and avoid possible identity theft:

- Ask to see the surviving spouse's identification or a copy of the death certificate
- If a personal representative (and not the surviving spouse) is filing the return, ask for court documents or other documentation authorizing the personal representative to file the return. Also verify the representative's identity.
- Representatives who do not have the necessary documentation with them should be advised to return
 once they have the information. If they cannot provide it, advise them to seek assistance from a
 professional tax preparer.

Keep Copies of Documents

Ladder Up will retain a copy of the death certificate and Form 1310 (if applicable) with all other paperwork.

Filing Deadline

The final income tax return for a decedent is due at the same time as it would have been due had death not occurred.

Filing Requirement

The gross income, age, and filing status of a decedent generally determine whether a return must be filed.

General Filing Procedures

Note: For the most part, ProSeries will automatically ensure the proper procedures are followed. To avoid delays in processing a decedent's final return and issuing any refund due, ensure the following steps are completed:

- 1. "DECEASED" the decedent's name, and the date of death are written across the top of the tax return. ProSeries will automatically do this once a date of death is entered.
- 2. If a personal representative has been appointed, the personal representative must sign their name on the return (or e-file signature pages if e-filing) and write "personal representative". If it is a joint return, the surviving spouse must also sign it.
- 3. If the client is the decedent's spouse filing a joint return with the decedent and no personal representative has been appointed, "Filing as surviving spouse" will be populated in the area where the taxpayer would sign the return.
- 4. If no personal representative has been appointed and if there is no surviving spouse, the person in charge of the decedent's property must file and sign the return as "personal representative." Note that volunteers should not complete returns in this situation, but advise the person filing the return to seek assistance from a professional tax preparer.
- 5. To claim a refund for the decedent, do the following.
 - a. If the client is the decedent's spouse filing a joint return with the decedent, file only the tax return to claim the refund.
 - b. If the client is the personal representative and the return is not a joint return filed with the decedent's surviving spouse, file the return and attach a copy of the certificate (testamentary letters or letters of administration) that shows the client's appointment by the court. (A power of

attorney or a copy of the decedent's will is not acceptable evidence of appointment as the personal representative.) If the client is filing an amended return, attach Form 1310 and a copy of the certificate of appointment (or, if the certificate of appointment has already been sent to the IRS, write "Certificate Previously Filed" at the bottom of Form 1310).

Legal Guardians and Appointed Executors

Legal documents showing the appointment should be provided by the representative. If the return results in a refund then a copy of the court certificate showing the appointment needs to be filed with the return. Otherwise, a Form 1310 is required.

Guardians should sign the return (or e-file signature pages if e-filing) in the following format "By (signature), parent (or guardian) for minor child"

Deceased Child or Dependent

If the decedent was the taxpayer's qualifying child, the parent may be able to claim the child tax credit or the earned income credit.

If the decedent qualified as the taxpayer's dependent for a part of the year before death, he can claim the dependent on his tax return, regardless of when death occurred during the year.

Deceased Spouse

If the client's spouse died during the year, the client is considered married for the whole year for filing status purposes. Also, refer to the *Volunteer Manual – FIW Part II: Filing Status*.

Spouse Did Not Remarry

If the surviving spouse did not remarry before the end of the tax year, a joint return can be filed for the surviving spouse and deceased spouse. The final joint return includes the decedent's income and deductions up to the time of death plus the surviving spouse's income and deductions for the entire year.

For the next 2 years, the surviving spouse may be entitled to file as a qualifying widow(er) with dependent child.

Spouse Remarried Before End of Year

A final joint return with the decedent cannot be filed if the surviving spouse remarried before the end of the year of the decedent's death. If this is the case, the filing status of the decedent is Married Filing Separately. The surviving, remarried spouse can file a joint return with his new spouse.

Power of Attorney Procedures

Due to updates to Quality Site Requirement put forth by the IRS we must now have valid Power of Attorney before preparing a return for a couple who is filing a joint return where both spouses are not present. Reasons for a spouse not being present include:

- Disease or injury
- Continuous absence from the United States (include absence from Puerto Rico) for a period of at least 60 days prior to the date required by law for filing the return
- 1. Please provide the client with a pre-filled Form 2848, which is saved in the Resources folder on the desktop of each laptop please note that highlighted fields won't show up very well after the form is printed so please re-highlight those fields once it has been printed. The client can then take this home to have their spouse sign.
- 2. Once we have a Form 2848 signed by the taxpayer and the representative we can prepare the return and either paper file or e-file it.
 - <u>Paper file</u> The original Form 2848 goes with the filed tax return to the same address to which we send paper-file returns based on whether payment is or is not enclosed. Ladder Up maintains a copy of the Form 2848 in the client's data packet. **Write "Power of Attorney" at the top of the data packet** so it can be identified as such when it comes back to our office for processing and filing.
 - E-file Ladder Up can scan the original of Form 2848 to a PDF to send along with Form 8453 (U.S. Individual Income Tax Transmittal for an IRS e-file Return). Once the return comes back to the Ladder Up office, the process of uploading the scanned PDF and creating a Form 8453 in ProSeries would be completed by the e-file team. Ladder Up maintains a paper copy in the client's data packet. Write "Power of Attorney" at the top of the data packet so it can be identified as such when it comes back to our office for processing and filing.

<u>OR</u>

Ladder Up can mail Form 2848 along with a printed Form 8453 from the client's ProSeries file to the address below once the e-filed return has been accepted.

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: Shipping and Receiving
0254 Receipt and Control Branch
Austin, TX 73344-0254

Substantial Presence Test

Even if you are not a United States citizen, U. S. national or a green card holder, you will be considered a United States resident for tax purposes if you meet the substantial presence test for the calendar year. To meet this test, you must be physically present in the United States (U.S.) on at least:

- 1. 31 days during the current year, and
- 2. 183 days during the 3-year period that includes the current year and the 2 years immediately before that, counting:
 - o All the days you were present in the current year, and
 - o 1/3 of the days you were present in the first year before the current year, and
 - o 1/6 of the days you were present in the second year before the current year.

Example:

You were physically present in the U.S. on 120 days in each of the years 2016, 2017, and 2018. To determine if you meet the substantial presence test for 2018, count the full 120 days of presence in 2018, 40 days in 2017 (1/3 of 120), and 20 days in 2016 (1/6 of 120). Since the total for the 3-year period is 180 days, you are not considered a resident under the substantial presence test for 2018.

Days of Presence in the United States

You are treated as present in the U.S. on any day you are physically present in the country, at any time during the day. However, there are exceptions to this rule. Do not count the following as days of presence in the U.S. for the substantial presence test.

- Days you commute to work in the U.S. from a residence in Canada or Mexico, if you regularly commute from Canada or Mexico.
- Days you are in the U.S. for less than 24 hours, when you are in transit between two places outside the United States.
- Days you are in the U.S. as a crew member of a foreign vessel.
- Days you are unable to leave the U.S. because of a medical condition that develops while you are in the United States.
- Days you are an exempt individual (see below).

For details on days excluded from the substantial presence test for other than exempt individuals, refer to Publication 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens.

The term United States (U.S.) includes the following areas.

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The territorial waters of the United States.
- The seabed and subsoil of those submarine areas that are adjacent to U.S. territorial waters and over which the United States has exclusive rights under international law to explore and exploit natural resources.

Exempt Individual

Do not count days for which you are an exempt individual. The term "exempt individual" does **not** refer to someone exempt from U.S. tax, but to anyone in the following categories:

An individual temporarily present in the U.S. as a <u>foreign government-related individual</u> under an "A" or "G" visa, other than individuals holding "A-3" or "G-5" class visas.

- A <u>teacher or trainee</u> temporarily present in the U.S. under a "J" or "Q" visa, who substantially complies with the requirements of the visa.
- A <u>student</u> temporarily present in the U.S. under an "F," "J," "M," or "Q" visa, who substantially complies with the requirements of the visa.
- A <u>professional athlete</u> temporarily in the U.S. to compete in a charitable sports event.

Injured Spouse – Form 8379

*For more complicated situations, please have the client talk with your site leader regarding office appointment options.

When a joint return is filed and only one spouse owes a past-due amount, the other spouse can be considered an injured spouse. An injured spouse may file Form 8379 to receive his or her share of the refund shown on the joint return. The injured spouse:

- Must not be legally obligated to pay the past-due amount, and
- Must have made and reported tax payments (such as federal income tax withheld from wages or estimated tax payments), or claimed a refundable tax credit (see the credits listed in Publication 17 under Who Should File?)

Both of these conditions must apply unless the injured spouse lived in a community property state at any time during the tax year. In community property states, the injured spouse only must meet the first condition. If the taxpayer meets these requirements, Form 8379 can be *e-filed* with the joint return. NOTE: Illinois is NOT a community property state.

Look in the Publication 17 index for *Injured Spouse*; the Form 8379 instructions are also informative.

If a taxpayer already filed a joint return and the refund was offset, Form 8379 can be filed. When filed after the offset, it can take up to eight weeks for the taxpayer to receive a refund. Do not attach the previously-filed tax return, but do include copies of all Forms W-2 and W-2G for both spouses and any Forms 1099 that show income tax withheld. The processing of Form 8379 may be delayed if these forms are not attached. A separate Form 8379 must be filed for each tax year to be considered.

An injured spouse claim is different from an innocent spouse relief request. Form 8379 allows an injured spouse to request the division of the tax overpayment attributed to each spouse. An innocent spouse uses Form 8857, Request for Innocent Spouse Relief, to request relief from joint liability for tax, interest, and penalties on a joint return for items of the other spouse (or former spouse) that were incorrectly reported on the joint return. For information on innocent spouses, taxpayers should see Publication 17, Relief from Joint Responsibility — Filing a Joint Return.



Note: Illinois does not have a corresponding form for Injured Spouse. Therefore, assess if it is worthwhile for the taxpayers to file as Married filing Separately for the state and forgo the EITC or file jointly and have the total refund be seized to pay off the outstanding debts.

Note: Form 8857, Request for Innocent Spouse Relief, is <u>out-of-scope</u> for Ladder Up's program.

Previous Year Tax Returns

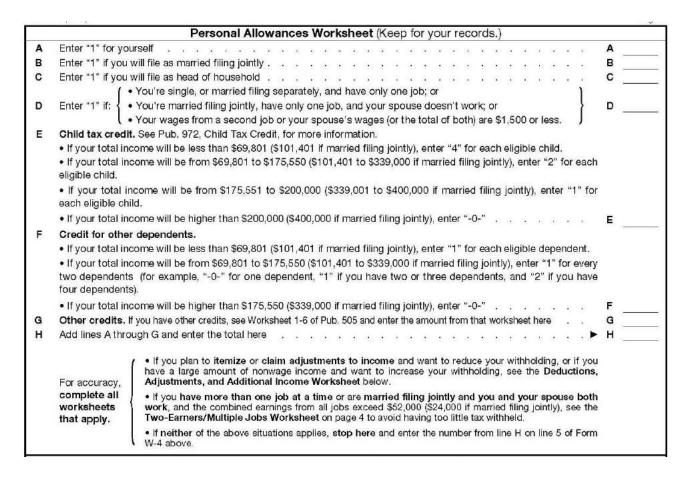
Starting in March, you will see clients coming to the sites to have tax returns from previous years completed and filed. When completing a tax return from a previous year there are a few facts and tips to keep in mind:

- Use the version of ProSeries software that matches the year of the return you are completing, and **be** very careful to also match the year on any income and expense forms. Tax forms from one year should never be entered on a return from a different year.
- When entering multiple years, start with the oldest year so that you can transfer files forward. Learn more about transferring files under *Volunteer Manual Tax Preparation Process: Transfer Client File*, on page 43.
- Clients should complete a Form 13614-C for each year that they need to have a return prepared, and they need to use the Form 13614-C that was issued in that year. Ask your Site Leader for a copy of previous-year forms.
- Just like amendments, most previous-year tax returns cannot be e-filed. We can only allow e-file of current year returns and two years prior.
- Clients can claim a tax refund for up to 3 years. For example, clients have until April 15, 2019, to claim a refund for 2016 returns. They can no longer claim a refund for tax returns from 2015 or earlier.
- When saving a tax return from a previous year, make sure to save it in the same place as all of the other returns from that day, and not in a folder containing files from a previous year.

Adjusting Form W-4

A taxpayer can make changes to withholding any time during the year by filing a new Form W-4 with his employer's payroll office. Included here is an overview on how to fill out the form.

A higher number of allowances claimed on the W-4 means less income tax will be withheld from the taxpayer's paycheck. To avoid owing more than necessary or having too much withheld throughout the tax year, it is in the client's best interest to correctly determine the number of allowances he should claim. The Personal Allowances Worksheet located above Form W-4 can help with this determination.

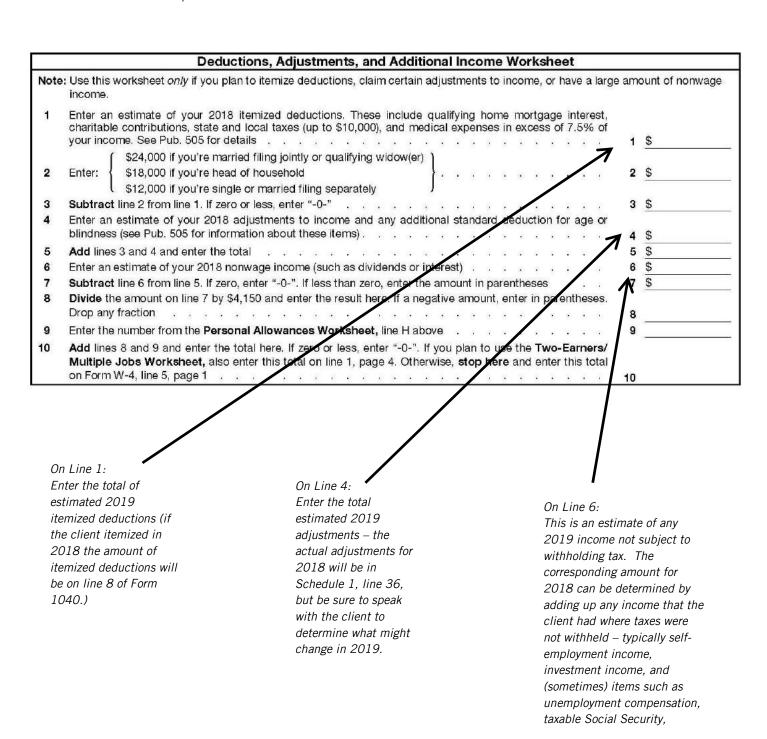


Adjusting Form W-4, Cont.

If a taxpayer has only one job, is single or married to a spouse with no income, and does not itemize deductions on his return, the worksheet is fairly straightforward. Taxpayers who don't meet all of these criteria may like assistance completing the Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet and/or Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksheet.



If the taxpayer's income and tax situation (filing status, credits, dependents & exemptions, etc.) are expected to be nearly the same for 2019 as for 2018, information from the completed 2018 return can be used to help estimate amounts on the W-4.



Adjusting Form W-4, Cont.

f-4 (2016)							Page 4
		Two-E	arners/Mu	ıltiple Jobs Worksl	neet		
: Use this wor	ksheet <i>only</i> if	the instructions unde	er line H from	the Personal Allowan	es Workshe	et direct you here.	
	Adjustment	s, and Additional Inc	come Works	heet on page 3, the nu	mber from lir	e 10 of that	
married filing	jointly and w	ages from the highes	t paying job	are \$75,000 or less and	the combine	d wages for	
					4 through 9 b	elow to	
Enter the nu	mber from line	2 of this worksheet			4		
Enter the nu	mber from line	1 of this worksheet			5		
Subtract line	5 from line 4						
							-
					•		
from each pa							-
	2000000	A CONTRACTOR OF			1,000		
Married Filing	Jointly	All Othe	rs	Married Filing	Jointly	All Othe	ers
es from LOWEST job ar e —	Enter on line 2 above	If wages from LOWEST paying job are—	Enter on line 2 above	If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	Enter on line 7 above	If wages from HIGHEST paying job are—	Enter on line 7 above
\$0 - \$5,000 ,001 - 9,500 ,501 - 19,000 ,501 - 26,500 ,501 - 37,000 ,501 - 55,000 ,001 - 60,000 ,001 - 75,000 ,001 - 75,000 ,001 - 35,000 ,001 - 130,000 ,001 - 150,000 ,001 - 150,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 170,000 ,001 - 180,000 ,001 - 180,000 ,001 - 180,000	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	\$0 - \$7,000 7,001 - 12,500 12,501 - 24,500 24,501 - 31,500 31,501 - 39,000 39,001 - 55,000 55,001 - 70,000 70,001 - 85,000 90,001 - 100,000 105,001 - 115,000 115,001 - 120,000 120,001 - 130,000 130,001 - 145,000 145,001 - 185,000 145,001 - 185,000 185,001 - 185,000	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	\$0 - \$24,375 24,376 - 82,725 82,726 - 170,325 170,326 - 320,325 320,326 - 405,325 405,326 - 605,325 605,326 and over	\$420 500 910 1,000 1,330 1,450 1,540	\$0 = \$7,000 7,001 = 36,175 36,176 = 79,978 79,976 = 154,975 154,976 = 197,475 197,476 = 497,475 497,476 and over	\$420 500 910 1,000 1,330 1,450 1,540
	E Use this wor Enter the n Deductions, worksheet) Find the num married filing you and your If line 1 is me and on Form If line 1 is les figure the ad Enter the nur Subtract line Find the amo Multiply line 8 2 weeks and 2018. Enter from each pa Married Filing Is from Lowest Job are— So = \$5,000 001 = 9,500 001 = 9,500 001 = 9,500 001 = 26,500 001 = 130,000 001 = 75,000 001 = 75,000 001 = 75,000 001 = 130,000 001 = 130,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 150,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 170,000 001 = 180,000	Electric the number from Deductions, Adjustment worksheet) Find the number in Table married filing jointly and wyou and your spouse are Siff line 1 is more than or e and on Form W-4, line 5, particular the number from line 2 figure the additional withh Enter the number from line 5 than 1 ine 4 find the amount in Table Multiply line 5 from line 4 find the amount in Table Multiply line 8 by the numb 2 weeks and you comple 5 from Lowest from each paycheck Tat Married Filing Jointly Strom Lowest Enter on line 2 above So = \$5,000	Enter the number from the Personal Allow Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Indivorshments and Indivorshments and Indivorshments and Indivorshments and India	Enter the number from the Personal Allowances Worl Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Income Works worksheet) Find the number in Table 1 below that applies to the LOWES married filing jointly and wages from the highest paying job is you and your spouse are \$107,000 or less, don't enter more the line 1 is more than or equal to line 2, subtract line 2 from and on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Do not use the rest of this is lift line 1 is less than line 2, enter "-0-" on Form W-4, line 5, pfigure the additional withholding amount necessary to avoid Enter the number from line 2 of this worksheet Enter the number from line 2 of this worksheet Enter the number from line 4 Find the amount in Table 2 below that applies to the HIGHE Multiply line 7 by line 6 and enter the result here. This is the Divide line 8 by the number of pay periods remaining in 201 2 weeks and you complete this form on a date in late Ap 2018. Enter the result here and on Form W-4, line 6, page from each paycheck Table 1 Married Filing Jointly Married Filing Jointly All Others Table 1 Married Filing Jointly All Others Enter on line 2 above paying job are— line 2 above paying job ar	Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksh: Use this worksheet only if the instructions under line H from the Personal Allowance Enter the number from the Personal Allowances Worksheet, line H, page Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Income Worksheet on page 3, the nu worksheet) Find the number in Table 1 below that applies to the LOWEST paying job and enter in married filing jointly and wages from the highest paying job are \$75,000 or less and you and your spouse are \$107,000 or less, don't enter more than "3". If line 1 is more than or equal to line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter the result and on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Do not use the rest of this worksheet. If line 1 is less than line 2, enter "-0-" on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Complete lines of figure the additional withholding amount necessary to avoid a year-end tax bill. Enter the number from line 2 of this worksheet Enter the number from line 1 of this worksheet Subtract line 5 from line 4 Find the amount in Table 2 below that applies to the HIGHEST paying job and enter Multiply line 7 by line 6 and enter the result here. This is the additional annual within Divide line 8 by the number of pay periods remaining in 2018. For example, divided 2 weeks and you complete this form on a date in late April when there are 18 [2018. Enter the result here and on Form W-4, line 6, page 1. This is the additional from each paycheck Table 1 Married Filing Jointly All Others Married Filing of 17,001 - 12,500 1 19,000 2 12,501 - 24,000 2 2,001 - 24,376 - 32,725 (201 - 24,500 2 3,000 -	Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksheet: Use this worksheet only if the instructions under line H from the Personal Allowances Worksheet. Enter the number from the Personal Allowances Worksheet, line H, page 3 (or, if yo Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Income Worksheet on page 3, the number from line worksheet) Find the number in Table 1 below that applies to the LOWEST paying job and enter it here. Howe married filling jointly and wages from the highest paying job are \$75,000 or less and the combine you and your spouse are \$107,000 or less, don't enter more than "3". If line 1 is more than or equal to line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter the result here (if zero, and on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Do not use the rest of this worksheet. If line 1 is less than line 2, enter "-0-" on Form W-4, line 5, page 1. Complete lines 4 through 9 b figure the additional withholding amount necessary to avoid a year-end tax bill. Enter the number from line 2 of this worksheet . 4 Find the amount in Table 2 below that applies to the HIGHEST paying job and enter it here. Multiply line 7 by line 6 and enter the result here. This is the additional annual withholding needs Divide line 8 by the number of pay periods remaining in 2018. For example, divide by 18 if you'r. 2 weeks and you complete this form on a date in late April when there are 18 pay periods in 2018. Enter the result here and on Form W-4, line 6, page 1. This is the additional amount to from each paycheck Table 1 Married Filing Jointy All Others Married Filing Jointly If wages from LOWEST Enter on line 2 above So	Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksheet Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksheet direct you here.

Client Resources

Obtaining a Social Security Number

A Social Security number can be obtained using Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card. Social Security can be reached at (800) 772-1213. A taxpayer that does not have his or her Social Security card will need to request a replacement Social Security card by completing the application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5) and providing required documentation. Also effective October 1, 2015, SSA will stop providing benefit verification letters in their offices. Taxpayers will still be able to get an instant letter online with a personal "my Social Security" account or may call SSA to request a letter by mail.

Federal and State Resources

Helpful Phone Numbers

- Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; (800) 829-4059 (TDD)
- Illinois Department of Revenue: (800) 732-8866 or (217) 782-3336; (800) 544-5304 (TDD)
- Department of Education (for FAFSA questions): (800) 433-3243
- List of Low Income Taxpayer Clinics: IRS Publication 4143, (800) 829-3676

Helpful Links

- Internal Revenue Service
 - http://www.irs.gov/
- Illinois Department of Revenue
 - http://tax.illinois.gov/
- Property Index Number (PIN) lookup for homeowners:
 - Cook County tiny URL: http://tinyurl.com/CookPIN
 - DuPage County tiny URL: http://tinyurl.com/DupagePIN
 - Lake County tiny URL: http://tinyurl.com/LakePIN
- Illinois state refund lookup: http://tinyurl.com/ILRefundLookup

Paper Filing Addresses

Federal Form 1040:

Not enclosing a payment:

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Fresno, CA 93888-0002

Enclosing a payment:

Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 80251 Cincinnati, OH 45280-2501

Federal Form 1040X:

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Fresno, CA 93888-0422

Illinois Form 1040:

Not enclosing a payment:

Illinois Department of Revenue Springfield, IL 62719-0001

Enclosing a payment:

Illinois Department of Revenue Springfield, IL 62726-0001

Illinois Form 1040X:

Illinois Department of Revenue P.O. Box 19007 Springfield, IL 62794-9007

Community Financial Resources (CFR)

Community Financial Resources (CFR), in partnership with US Bank, offers a free prepaid debit card (Focus Card) to clients of partner organizations. Tax Preparers and QR may offer this resource to clients who indicate that they are no longer willing to pay check cashing fees to access their own money, or any other client who has indicated that they would otherwise receive their refund via paper check. Many clients see this as an opportunity to open an additional account.

Immediately upon enrollment, clients will receive their account number and routing number, which should be entered by the Quality Reviewer in the Federal Information Worksheet or Form 8888 so that they can elect to direct deposit their refund onto this new card. Clients can expect to receive their physical card in the mail in less than two weeks, which is less time than it takes the IRS to issue refunds in most cases.

For account specifications and features, please see the CFR and US Bank Focus Card brochure.

To open a CFR/US Bank Focus Prepaid Card:

- 1. Login to www.cfrcard.org/login using the <u>username</u> specific to your tax site
- 2. Select "Enroll" button.
- 3. Together with the client, enter the client's contact information.
- 4. Enter the client's Social Security Number (ITIN not currently accepted).
- 5. Review information before submitting.

Use the account cards to write down their account and routing number.

Bank Routing Numbers

This applies to accounts opened in the State of Illinois only.

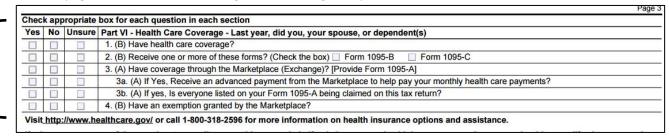
Bank	Routing Number	Location
Archer Bank	071004530	Chicago, IL
Associated Bank	071925855	Illinois
Banco Popular / Popular Community Bank	071924458	Illinois
Bank of America	081904808	Illinois
BMO Harris Bank	071025661	Illinois
Charter One Bank	241070417	Illinois
Chase Bank	071000013	Chicago, IL
Chicago Community Bank	071004158	Chicago, IL
Citibank	271070801	Illinois
Community Savings Bank	271070681	Chicago
Consumers Credit Union	271989950	Waukegan, IL
Credit Union One	271188081	Illinois
Fifth Third Bank	071923909	Chicago, IL
First American Bank	071922777	Elk Grove Village, IL
First Midwest Bank	071901604	Itasca, IL
Great Lakes Federal Credit Union	271992219	Illinois
Guaranty Bank	071974408	Illinois
Illinois Service Federal	271070924	Chicago, IL
Lakeside Bank	071001504	Illinois
Marquette Bank	071004284	Chicago, IL
MB Financial Bank	071001737	Chicago, IL
North Community Bank	071002707	Chicago, IL
NorStates Bank	071923378	Waukegan, IL
North Community Bank	071001533	Chicago, IL
North Side Community Federal Credit Union	271081599	Chicago, IL
Northbrook Bank and Trust Co.	071926184	Northbrook, IL
Pacific Global Bank	071006774	Chicago, IL
Pan American Bank	071006868	Chicago, IL
Parkway Bank and Trust Co.	071908160	Harwood Heights, IL
PNC Bank	071921891	Illinois
Seaway National Bank	071001216	Chicago, IL
Self-Help FCU Chicago Division	271071279	Cicero, IL
South Side Community Federal Credit Union	071093295	Chicago, IL
TCF National Bank	271972572	Illinois
Urban Partnership Bank	071004226	Chicago, IL
US Bank	071904779	Northern Illinois
USAA Federal Credit Union	314074269	Illinois
West Suburban Bank	071923349	Illinois

Affordable Care Act

No proof of coverage is needed. Oral statement from the taxpayer is acceptable, unless normal due diligence leads you to believe the taxpayer's statement is incorrect.

The ACA requires individuals to have qualifying healthcare coverage (called minimum essential coverage, or MEC) for each month of the year, qualify for a coverage exemption, or make a shared responsibility payment (SRP) when filing their federal income tax returns. (Refer to the chart below for a list of MEC qualifications).

Refer to page 3 of Form 13614-C as a guide for talking with your client about their MEC status.



Note: Household Income is defined *slightly* differently for the affordability exemption, Individual Shared Responsibility Payment, and Premium Tax Credit. Do not use the same value everywhere.

Step 1: Did the client have minimum essential coverage (MEC) in 2018?

Minimum essential coverage means health care coverage under any of the following programs. It does not, however, include coverage consisting solely of excepted benefits. Excepted benefits include standalone vision and dental plans (except pediatric dental coverage), workers' compensation coverage, and coverage limited to a specified disease or illness.

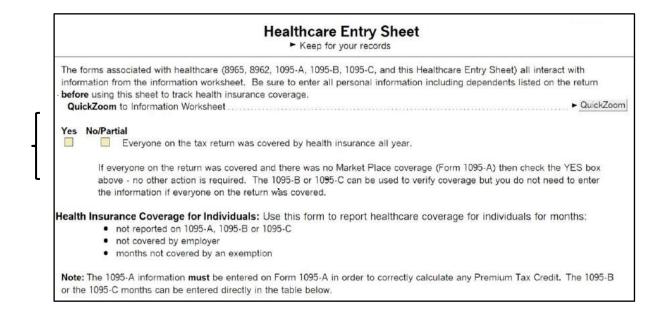
Employer-sponsored coverage: · Group health insurance coverage for employees under- A governmental plan, such as the Federal Employees Health Benefit program · A plan or coverage offered in the small or large group market within a state · A grandfathered health plan offered in a group market · A self-insured health plan for employees COBRA coverage Retiree coverage Individual health coverage: Health insurance you purchase directly from an insurance company · Health insurance you purchase through the Marketplace . Health insurance provided through a student health plan Coverage under government-sponsored programs: Medicare Part A coverage · Medicare Advantage plans Most Medicaid coverage* Most Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage* Most types of TRICARE coverage · Comprehensive health care programs offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs · Health coverage provided to Peace Corps volunteers Department of Defense Nonappropriated Fund Health Benefits Program Refugee Medical Assistance Other coverage: Certain foreign coverage · Certain coverage for business owners Coverage recognized by HHS as minimum essential coverage.**

Note:

If a client is participating in a program which provides help to uninsured individuals to pay for health services at Cook Country Hospital, this would NOT meet the requirement for Minimum Essential Coverage.

In Part I of the Federal Information Worksheet, click on the QuickZoom to the Healthcare Entry Sheet in order to complete the Minimum Essential Coverage information for the client in 2018.





If the client answers "Yes" and has a Form 1095-A indicating they purchased insurance on the Marketplace, proceed to 1095-A and Premium Tax Credit on page 279.

If the client answers "Yes" and has a Form 1095-B or 1095-C or otherwise indicates that all individuals on the tax return had insurance the full year, click "Yes" on the Healthcare Entry Sheet and continue preparing the return.

If a client answers "No/Partial" to this question, they may be required to pay the Individual Shared Responsibility Payment (ISRP) if they do not qualify for an exemption (see page 66). ProSeries will automatically calculate this amount and it will appear on Form 1040, Schedule 4 line 61 (see page 276). If anyone on the tax return had insurance for part of the year, scroll down to the bottom of the Healthcare Entry Sheet and enter which individuals/months they had insurance and then interview the client to determine if they qualify for an exemption (page 66).

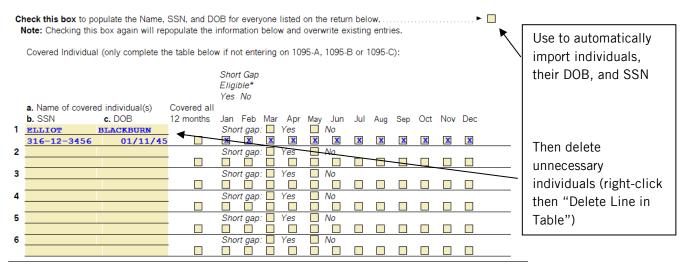
Note: 1095-B and 1095-C are not required to be entered.

If a client marks unsure, interview the client regarding what would happen if someone listed on the tax return were to get sick or go to the hospital. If the client has a 1095-C, an explanation of the letter codes can be found on page 283, which may help determine whether the taxpayer and/or their family had offers of insurance.

Note: The mailing due date for Forms 1095-B and 1095-C is later than the required date for other income documents, so some clients may not have received their insurance forms by the time they come to have their tax return prepared. If the client has indicated they had insurance the entire year, the return can still be prepared. If the client was offered insurance through their employer and may be eligible for the Affordability exemption (see page 276), they will need to either provide the cost of the offered insurance or return after the 1095-C has been received.

Partial Year Coverage

If clients have partial-year coverage or only select individuals on the tax return have insurance, complete the section at the bottom of the Healthcare Entry Sheet.



^{*} See help for explanation of short gap Yes/No box function. It affects the calculation of short gap coverage for January and February based on answer, which indicates whether coverage at end of prior year qualify months for short gap eligibility.

The tax preparer should also complete the grey box on the 13614-C!

To be Completed by a Certified Volunteer Preparer (Use Publication 4012 and check the appropriate box(es) indicating Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) for everyone listed on the return.)						
Name (List dependents in the same order as in Part II)	MEC Entire Year	No MEC	Part Year MEC (mark months with coverage)	Exemption (mark months exemptions applies)	Exemption All Year	Notes
Taxpayer			JFMAMJJASOND	JFMAMJJASOND		
Spouse			JFMAMJJASOND	JFMAMJJASOND		
Dependent			JFMAMJJASOND	JFMAMJJASOND		
Dependent			JFMAMJJASOND	J F M A M J J A S O N D		
Dependent			JFMAMJJASOND	J F M A M J J A S O N D		
Dependent			JFMAMJJASOND	JFMAMJJASOND		

Step 2: Exemptions for paying the ISRP, Form 8965:

In certain circumstances, a taxpayer can avoid the ISRP if he qualifies for an <u>exemption</u>. If a client qualifies for an exemption, Form 8965 must be submitted with the federal tax return.

Form 8965, has three parts:

- Use Part I to report the Exemption Certificate Number for all Marketplace exemptions (uncommon)
- Use Part II to enter the IRS-granted exemptions for the entire household
- Use Part III to claim other IRS-granted exemptions for individuals (refer to the chart on page 275 for a list of exemptions)

Quick Zoom to Form 8965 on the Healthcare Entry Sheet:



Form 8965 will also automatically show up in the Forms In Use on the left if the "yes" box at the top of the Healthcare Entry Sheet is not checked.

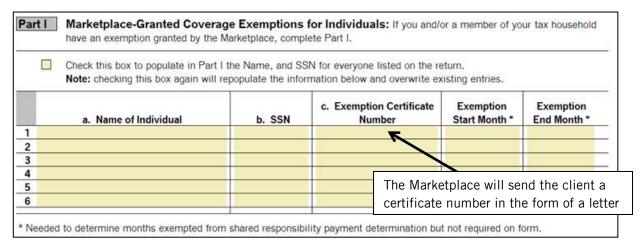
Part I: Marketplace Exemptions

These exemptions must be applied for through the Marketplace, require supporting documentation, and take a while to process. Examples of these exemptions include: certain Medicaid programs not considered Minimum Essential Coverage, members of certain religious sects, and general hardship (see Table).

Hardship Exemptions Granted by the Marketplace Homelessness 9. High expense caring for ill, disabled or aging relative Eviction in the last 6 months or facing eviction or 10. Failure of another party to comply with a medical support order for a foreclosure dependent child who is determined ineligible for Medicaid or CHIP 11. Through an appeals process, determined eligible for a Marketplace QHP, Utility shut-off notice Domestic violence PTC, or CSR but was not enrolled Recent death of a close family member 12. Determined ineligible for Medicaid because the state did not expand Disaster that resulted in significant property damage coverage Bankruptcy in the last 6 months 13. Individual health insurance plan was cancelled and you believe Significant debt from medical expense in the last 24 Marketplace plans are considered unaffordable months Other hardship in obtaining coverage

Application and information on how to apply for a hardship:

https://marketplace.cms.gov/applications-and-forms/hardship-exemption.pdf

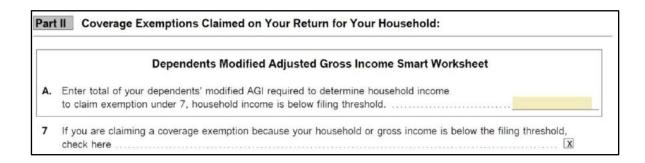


If the taxpayer has already applied for a Marketplace exemption, but the exemption has not been processed, enter "pending" under the Exemption Certificate Number.

Part II: IRS Exemption, Exemptions for a client's household

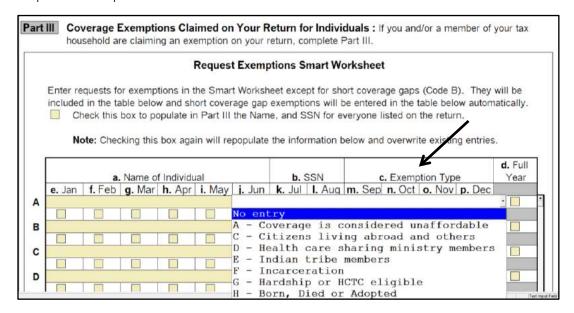
Part II will be mostly completed by ProSeries if the Household Income or Gross Income was below the filing threshold. However, if there are dependents who are required to file a tax return, their income must be included.

- Household Income: Sum of the MAGI from the tax return and the MAGI of all dependents required to file a tax return, see pages 276-278.
- Gross Income: All income received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that is not exempt from tax *Do not include income of dependents
- See page 28 for the chart on Filing Requirement Thresholds



Part III: IRS Exemptions, Exemptions for Individuals on the Return

Each individual can claim specific exemptions by the month or by the year. Use the checkbox to auto-populate this form with the Name and SSN for everyone on the tax return, then delete the lines (by right clicking on the line) for any individuals for whom no exemption is required. Use the check boxes to indicate months that the client was covered by insurance and use the dropdown in menu in box c to select the appropriate code. A list of codes with explanations is provided below.

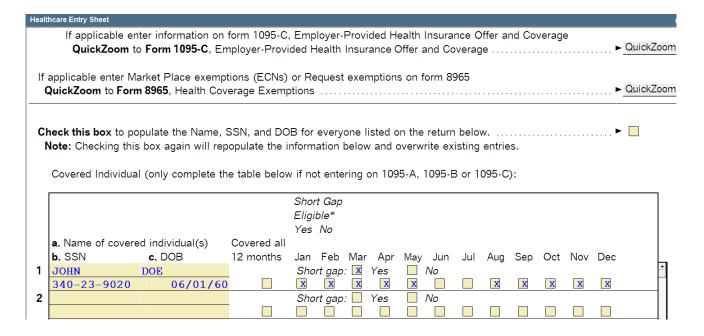


Exemptions:

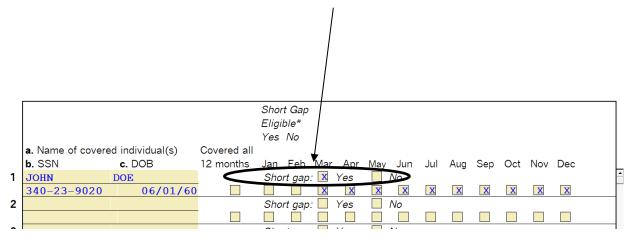
- A: To qualify for this exemption, the affordability MUST be computed (see page 276).
- C: Also applies for clients who are in the U.S. illegally, including ITIN holders and those under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- D: Health Care Sharing Ministry Members
- E: Indian tribe members
- **F**: Incarceration
- **G:** Hardship under a Code G must be computed based on the Affordability Worksheet. General hardship exemptions must be applied for through the Marketplace and are claimed in Part I.
- **H:** Applies when an individual was born, adopted or died during the year. Only needed if another exemption applies.

Short Gap Exemption

The short gap exemption applies when the gap in coverage is less than 3 months. Most short gap exemptions will be automatically calculated by ProSeries. See example below.



<u>Note</u>: When the gap occurs in January alone or January and February, we are required to look back to the prior year to see if there was insurance in December and earlier months. The counting of less than three months includes the last months of the prior year. If the client was covered in prior months, they are truly eligible for the short gap exemption and you must indicate this using the short gap check box.



Other Exemptions

Types of Coverage Exemptions

This chart shows all of the coverage exemptions available for 2018, including information about where each can be obtained and the code that is to be used on Form 8965 when you claim the exemption. If your coverage exemption was granted by the Marketplace, you will need to enter the Exemption Certificate Number (ECN) provided by the Marketplace. For additional detail about the eligibility rules for the coverage exemptions that are claimed on the tax return, see the Instructions for Form 8965.

Coverage Exemption	Granted by Marketplace	Claimed on tax return	Code for Exemption
Income below the filing threshold — Your gross income or your household income was less than your applicable minimum threshold for filing a tax return.		✓	No Code See Part II
Coverage considered unaffordable — The required contribution is more than 8.05% of your household income		✓	А
Short coverage gap — You went without coverage for less than 3 consecutive months during the year. There is a look-back rule for gaps of coverage at the start of the year. See the Instructions for Form 8965 for details.		✓	В
Citizens living abroad and certain noncitizens — You were: • A U.S. citizen or resident who was physically present in a foreign country or countries for at least 330 full days during any period of 12 consecutive months; • A U.S. citizen who was a bona fide resident of a foreign country or countries for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year; • A bona fide resident of a U.S. territory; • A resident alien who was a citizen or national of a foreign country with which the U.S. has an income tax treaty with a nondiscrimination clause, and you were a bona fide resident of a foreign country for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year; • Not lawfully present in the U.S and not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. For this purpose, an immigrant with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status is not considered lawfully present and therefore qualifies for this exemption. For more information about who is treated as lawfully present in the U.S. for purposes of this coverage exemption, visit Healthcare, gov; or • A nonresident alien, including (1) a dual-status alien in the first year of U.S. residency and (2) a nonresident alien or dual-status nonresident alien who elects to file a joint return with a U.S. spouse. This exemption doesn't apply if you are a nonresident alien for 2018, but met certain presence requirements and elected to be treated as a resident alien. For more information see Pub. 519.		~	c
Members of a health care sharing ministry — You were a member of a health care sharing ministry.		✓	D
Members of Indian tribes — You were either a member of a Federally-recognized Indian tribe, including an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Shareholder (regional or village), or you were otherwise eligible for services through an Indian health care provider or the Indian Health Service.	*	√	E
Incarceration — You were in a jail, prison, or similar penal institution or correctional facility after the disposition of charges.		✓	F
Aggregate self-only coverage considered unaffordable — Two or more family members' aggregate cost of self-only employer-sponsored coverage was more than 8,05% of household income, as was the cost of any available employer-sponsored coverage for the entire family.		✓	G
Resident of a state that did not expand Medicaid — Your household income was below 138% of the federal poverty line for your family size and at any time in 2018 you resided in a state that didn't participate in the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. See calculation on the following page.		✓	G
Member of tax household born or adopted during the year — The months before and including the month that an individual was added to your tax household by birth or adoption. You should claim this exemption only if you are also claiming another exemption on your Form 8965.		✓	Н
Member of tax household died during the year — The months after the month that a member of your tax household died during the year. You should claim this exemption only if you are also claiming another exemption on your Form 8965		✓	Н
Members of certain religious sects — The marketplace determined that you are a member of a recognized religious sect.	✓		Need ECN See Part I
Ineligible for Medicaid based on a state's decision not to expand Medicaid coverage — The marketplace found that you would have been determined ineligible for Medicaid solely because the state in which you resided didn't participate in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.	1		Need ECN See Part I
General hardship — The Marketplace determined that you experienced a hardship that prevented you from obtaining coverage under a qualified health plan.	✓		Need ECN See Part I
Coverage considered unaffordable based on projected income — The Marketplace determined that you didn't have access to coverage that is considered affordable based on your projected household income.	1		Need ECN See Part I
Certain Medicaid programs that are not minimum essential coverage —The Marketplace determined that you were (1) enrolled in Medicaid coverage provided to a pregnant woman that is not recognized as minimum essential coverage; (2) enrolled in Medicaid coverage provided to a medically needy individual (also known as Spend-down Medicaid or Share-of-Cost Medicaid) that is not recognized as minimum essential coverage; or (3) enrolled in Medicaid coverage provided to a medically needy individual and were without coverage for other months because the spend-down had not been met.	✓		Need ECN See Part I

- Homelessness
- Eviction in the last 6 months or facing eviction or foreclosure
- Domestic violence
- Recent death of a close family member
- Disaster that resulted in significant property damage Bankruptcy in the last 6 months
- Significant debt from medical expense in the last 24 months
- Hardship Exemptions Granted by the Marketplace

 10. Failure of another party to comply with a medical support order for a dependent child who is determined ineligible for Medicaid or CHIP

 11. Through an appeals process, determined eligible for a Marketplace QHP, PTC, or

 - CSR but was not enrolled
 - Determined ineligible for Medicaid because the state did not expand coverage Individual health insurance plan was cancelled and you believe Marketplace plans
 - are considered unaffordable
 - 14. Other hardship in obtaining coverage
- 9. High expense caring for ill, disabled or aging relative
 * The coverage exemptions for members of Indian tribes is no longer granted by the Marketplace, except in Connecticut. See the Instructions for Form 8965 to claim the exemption.

Other Exemptions, Cont.

Codes A & G: Coverage considered unaffordable

Note: Another volunteer tax program has created a website which assists preparers in determining whether taxpayers qualify for a Code A or G exemption for affordability.

The calculator can be found at:

https://cotaxaide.org/tools/ACA%20Affordability%20Calculator.html.

See your site leader to get access to this calculator and the instructions for using it. It is the basis used by Ladder Up for determining if a Code A or G exemption applies.

Federal Poverty Lines

For purposes of the premium tax credit, eligibility for a certain year is based on the most recently published set of poverty lines. As a result, the tax credit for 2018 will be based on the 2017 federal poverty lines.

2017 Poverty Lines for the 48	Contiguous States and th	ne District of Columbia	
For families/households with more that	in 8 persons, add \$4,180 for each	additional person (100% Poverty I	Line)
Persons in family/household	100% Poverty Line	138% Poverty Line	400% Poverty Line
1	\$12,060	\$16,643	\$48,240
2	\$16,240	\$22,411	\$64,960
3	\$20,420	\$28,180	\$81,680
4	\$24,600	\$33,948	\$98,400
5	\$28,780	\$39,716	\$115,120
6	\$32,960	\$45,485	\$131,840
7	\$37,140	\$51,253	\$148,560
8	\$41,320	\$57,022	\$165,280

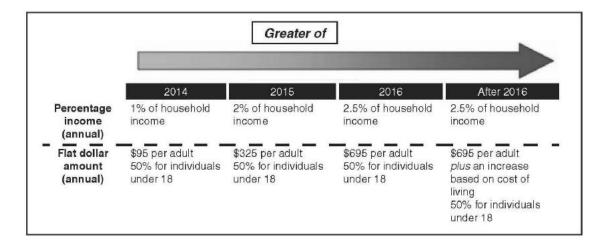
Individual Shared Responsibility Payment (Form 8965)

If the client does not have Minimum Essential Coverage or an Exemption, they will be responsible for the Individual Shared Responsibility Payment (ISRP). This amount will be computed automatically by ProSeries at the bottom of Form 8965 (below the Part III Exemptions).

How is the Individual Shared Responsibility Payment (ISRP) Calculated?

For the year, based on the greater of the calculated

- 1. Percentage of income or
- 2. Flat dollar amount
- Limited to maximum of 3X per household (\$2,085 for 2018)
- Cannot exceed the national average premium for bronze- level health plans
- Prorated for months without coverage/exemption.



Exemptions: Form 8965, Part II

Household Exemptions for Income Below Filing Threshold

Exemption Type	Details			
Household income below filing threshold (Form 8965, Line 7)	Household income is the sum of the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) from the tax return and the MAGI of all dependents required to file a tax return. Use the Filing Requirements for Children and Other Dependents chart (in this tab) to determine whether the dependent is required to file his or her own tax return. MAGI			
Gross income below filing threshold (Form 8965, Line 7)	Gross Income means all income received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that is not exempt from tax, see definition of gross income below. • Do not include income of any dependents			

If either exemption applies, stop. There is no need to consider other exemptions for individual members of the household.

2018 Federal Tax Filing Thresholds for Most People

Filing Status	Age*	Must file a return if gross income** exceeds
Single	Under 65 65 or older	\$12,000 \$13,600
Head of Household	Under 65 65 or older	\$18,000 \$19,600
Married Filing Jointly***	Under 65 (both spouses) 65 or older (one spouse) 65 or older (both spouses)	\$24,000 \$25,300 \$26,600
Married Filing Separately	Any age	\$5
Qualifying Widow(er)	Under 65 65 or older	\$24,000 \$25,300

^{*} If you were born on January 1, 1954, you are considered to be age 65 at the end of 2018. (If your spouse died in 2018 or if you are preparing a return for someone who died in 2018, see Pub. 501.)

So, for 2018 tax returns, ISRP is the GREATER of:

- 1) (Household MAGI*- Filing Threshold**) x 2.5%, OR
- 2) Flat rate of \$695 per adult + \$347.50 per child (up to \$2,085 per tax return)

If coverage was only for part of the year, multiply the IRSP by the fraction of months the client was insured

^{**} Gross income means all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that isn't exempt from tax, including any income from sources outside the United States. It also includes gain from the sale of your main home, even if you can exclude part or all of it. Include only the taxable part of social security benefits. It also include gains, but not losses, reported on Form 8949 or Schedule D. Gross income from a business means, for example, the amount on Schedule C, line 7, or Schedule F, line 9. But, in figuring gross income, do not reduce your income by any losses, including any loss on Schedule C, line 7, or Schedule F, line 9.

^{***} If you did not live with your spouse at the end of 2018 (or on the date your spouse died) and your gross income was at least \$5, you must file a return regardless of your age.

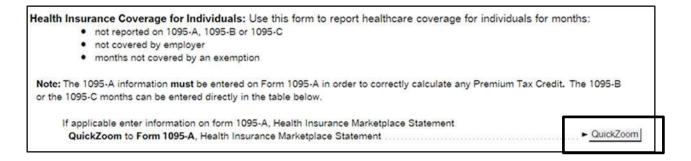
1095-A and Premium Tax Credit

There are three (3) possible forms relevant to Health Insurance. Select the appropriate form in ProSeries using the QuickZoom button.

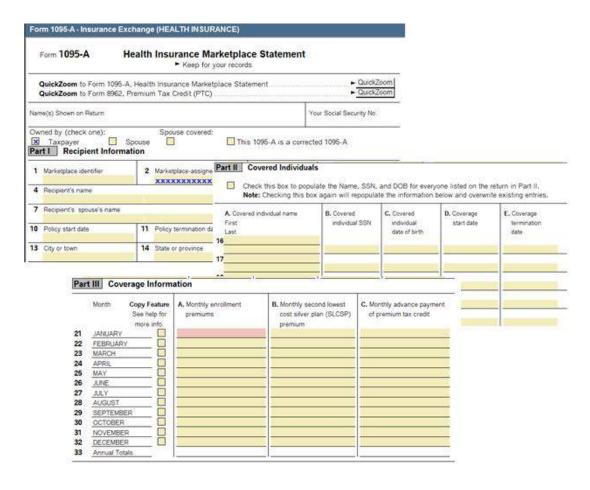
- Form 1095-A: Insurance was obtained from the Marketplace (Mandatory for the tax return)
 - If the taxpayer did not receive a Form 1095-A from the Marketplace, he can call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or login to his account at www.healthcare.gov
- Form 1095-B: Insurance was obtained from a health insurance issuer or carrier
- Form 1095-C: Insurance was obtained from an employer

If client purchased insurance on the Marketplace, information from the 1095-A MUST be entered into ProSeries.

Healthcare Entry Sheet: Click the QuickZoom to Form 1095-A



1095-A: Complete the information as it appears on the client's Form 1095-A (Advanced preparers ONLY)



Premium Tax Credit and Advanced Premium Tax Credit (Advanced Only)

The Premium Tax Credit (PTC) is claimed by taxpayers on the tax return. If a client received Advanced Premium Tax Credits (ATPC) during the year, he must file a tax return in order to reconcile the correct amount for the year. The PTC only applies to clients who purchased insurance through the Marketplace (and therefore received a 1095-A).

Who qualifies for the PTC? Taxpayers who:

- Purchase insurance through the Marketplace during open enrollment or who have reported life changes (Nov 1, 2017 Jan 31, 2018)
- Have income between 100 and 400 percent of the poverty line (See page 276 for Federal Poverty Lines)
- Do not have a filing status of Married Filing Separately
- Are not filing as a dependent of someone else
- Are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid/CHIP or most other employee-sponsored plans

Form 8692

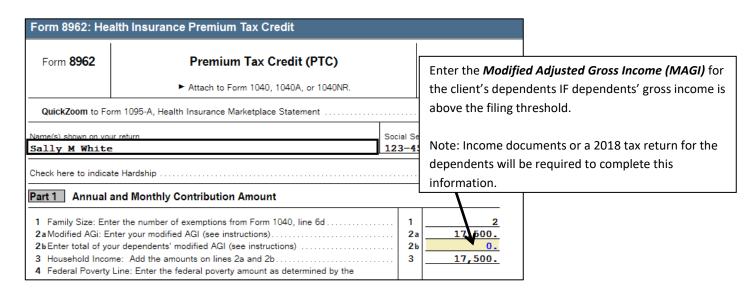
Form 8962 reconciles the correct amount of PTC from the year with the APTC. If APTC payments were more or less at the end of the year, the difference will appear in the payments section of the Form 1040 Schedule 5 line 70 if the client is owed additional PTC, or on Form 1040, Schedule 2 line 46 if the client must repay a portion of the APTC. A client may also use Form 8962 if he wishes to claim the PTC upon filing his tax return when he did not receive APTC.

*If a person receives APTC, he must file a tax return!

Reasons that the client may have to pay back part of his APTC:

- Errors in estimating taxpayer's income (mid-year wage increases, bonuses, etc.)
- Errors in estimating a dependent's income
- Incorrect Form 1095-A
- Change in filing status
- Change in household size

Remind and encourage taxpayers to report their changes to the Marketplace mid-year.



MAGI (Modified Adjusted Gross Income) = Adjusted Gross Income (7 of Form 1040) + Non-Taxable Social Security Benefits (line 5a minus line 5b of Form 1040) + Tax-Exempt Interest (line 2a of Form 1040) + Excluded Foreign Income (foreign earned income excluded from taxation of individuals who live abroad, IRS Form 2555).

For example: Jim has \$12,000 in wages, \$12,000 in Social Security, and \$750 in student loan interest. AGI = \$12,000 in wages - \$750 of the student loan interest which equals \$11,250. Since the Social Security is non-taxable it is excluded. In order to get the MAGI, \$11,250 (AGI) is added to \$12,000 (non-taxable Social Security benefits) which equals \$23,250.

Part 2 Premium Tax Credit Claim and Reconciliation of Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit

Part 2 will automatically calculate. If changes occurred during the year that the client did not report to the Marketplace such as changes in marital status, income, etc., the Total Premium Tax Credit (Line 24) and the Advance Payment of PTC (Line 25) will differ.

If Line 24 (PTC) is larger than Line 25 (APTC), then the Net Premium Tax Credit is carried over on Form 1040, Schedule 5, line 70.

Part 3 Repayment of Excess Advance Payment of the Premium Tax Credit

Part 3 will automatically calculate. If Line 24 (PTC) is smaller than Line 25 from part 2, then the Excess Advance Payment of PTC is computed on Line 27 and the client will be responsible for repayment, which could be limited by the Repayment Caps for APTC. The Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit Repayment amount will be on Line 29 and also on Form 1040, Schedule 2, line 46.

Repayment Caps for APTC			
Income (as % of federal poverty line)	Taxpayers Filing as SINGLE	Taxpayers Using Other Filing Statuses	
Under 200%	\$300	\$600	
200% - 299%	\$750	\$1,500	
300% - 399%	\$1,275	\$2,550	
400% and above	No cap (full repayment)	No cap (full repayment)	

*Part 4 and 5 are out of scope for the VITA program

If all the individuals listed on the 1095-A are not also listed on the tax return, this indicates that a Shared Policy Allocation must be completed which is OUT-OF-SCOPE.

Part 4	Shared Policy Allocation
Part 5	Alternative Calculation for Year of Marriage

Handling Large APTC Repayments

To minimize repayment, consider the following strategies (as outlined in Publication 4012)

- Make sure Form 1095-A is correct and complete
 - Ask the taxpayer to contact the Marketplace if the form doesn't reflect premiums that were paid or if there are other errors.
- Consider income adjustments to reduce household income
 - o If the taxpayer is eligible to claim an IRA deduction, remember that taxpayers can contribute to an IRA until the tax filing deadline.
 - o If someone on the taxpayer's return has tuition expenses, consider the Tuition and Fees deduction instead of an education credit.
- Consider married filing separately
 - The taxpayer may be ineligible for the PTC, but filing separately may cap repayment at a lower level based on income.

IMPORTANT! If the taxpayer is currently enrolled in Marketplace coverage and has a 2018 repayment, the taxpayer should contact the Marketplace <u>now</u> to adjust their 2019 APTC to avoid similar repayments for the 2019 tax year!

1095-C - Codes for lines 14-16

Clients employed at large employers may receive a 1095-C. The various codes on lines 14-16 indicate whether the employee and/or their family were offered and accepted insurance satisfying the Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) requirement.

Line	e 14 Code Descriptions	Line 15 Entry
1A	Qualifying offer: Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) providing Minimum Value (MV) offered to full-time employee, and at least MEC offered to spouse and dependents. Employee contribution for self-only coverage is \$93.18 or less (for 2015).	Leave blank
1B	MEC providing MV offered to employee only	Required
1C	MEC providing MV offered to employee and at least MEC offered to dependents (no spouse)	Required
1D	MEC providing MV offered to employee and at least MEC offered to spouse (no dependents)	Required
1E	MEC providing MV offered to employee and at least MEC offered to dependents and spouse. (If employee contribution for self-only coverage is more than \$93.18 for 2015, use Code 1E.)	Required
1F	Offer of MEC NOT providing MV was made to employee, or employee and spouse or dependents, or employee, spouse and dependents	Leave blank
1G	Offer of coverage to employee who was not a full-time employee for any month and who enrolled in self-insured coverage for one or more months	Leave blank
1H	No offer of coverage to the employee, or the offer was not MEC	Leave blank
11	Qualifying Offer Transition Relief for 2015: Employee (and spouse or dependents) received no offer of coverage, received an offer that is not a qualifying offer, or received a qualifying offer for less than 12 months.	Leave blank

1k MEC offered to employee; MEC offered to dependents; and MEC conditionally offered to spouse Required

Line 16 - Applicable Section 4980H Safe Harbor

Line 16 provides an opportunity for an employer to indicate an exception to a penalty. Completing this line is optional, however it is in the employer's best interest to provide the information if it is applicable.

- 2A Employee not employed during the month
- 2B Employee is not a full-time employee
- 2C Employee enrolled in coverage offered
- 2D Employee is in a limited non-assessment period
- 2E Multiemployer interim rule relief

2F Section 4980H affordability Form W-2 safe harbor

All/

- 2G Section 4980H affordability federal poverty line safe harbor
- 2H Section 4980H affordability rate of pay safe harbor
- 21 Non-calendar year transition relief

If more than one code applies to Line 16, use the following guidelines:

- If 2E and any other Code series 2 applies, enter 2E
- If 2C and any other Code series 2 applies other than Code 2E, enter 2C
- If 2B and 2D apply, enter 2D

Other Helpful ACA Resources:

IRS ACA Page: https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act

Beyond the Basics: http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/
Publication 4012: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4012.pdf

Common Abbreviations:

ACA – Affordable Care Act

AGI – Adjusted Gross Income

APTC – Advance Premium Tax Credit

ISRP – Individual Shared Responsibility Payment

MAGI – Modified Adjusted Gross Income

MEC – Minimum Essential Coverage

PTC – Premium Tax Credit