

NEWS RELEASE

75 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel (845) 471.1900

Contact: Melissa Clark, Vice President of Community Impact, mclark@uwdor.org, (845) 471-1900 EXT 3128

For Immediate Release

Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Provides Free Tax-Preparation Services in Dutchess, Orange and Putnam Counties

POUGHKEEPSIE & NEWBURGH, NY — If you are one of the many Hudson Valley residents who need help filing your tax return, FREE tax preparation once again is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's IRS trained and certified volunteers through the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition. Last year, 6,418 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes. This year with volunteers both tenured and new, they hope to assist close to 8,000 individuals, seniors and families to file their tax returns.

The tax service is open for low to moderate income residents of all ages who meet the eligibility guidelines. Membership in AARP is not required. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition members, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County and many other community partners.

To receive help, it's as easy as picking up the phone and dialing 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline (or by dialing 1-800-899-1479). 2-1-1 is available to begin taking appointment calls starting January 16th from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday. A call specialist will review eligibility, make an appointment and provide directions to the appropriate tax site. Due to high call volumes at the beginning of the season, if you cannot get through in January you are encouraged to call at the beginning of February when the lines become more available.

"This is a milestone year for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as they celebrate 50 years of strengthening America's workers. Since the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 was introduced EITC has been helping to give modest tax breaks that provide financial help to economically challenged families and individuals and encouraging work," stated Jeannie Montano, President and CEO of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program has played a crucial role in the lives of low to moderate income workers, helping them maximize their tax refunds and access the EITC. Jeannie Montano emphasized "financial challenges are faced by hardworking individuals in our community, many of whom fall within the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) category. These are the people who make our community function – our restaurant servers, childcare workers, and healthcare providers. This support directly impacts their ability to afford rent, healthcare, and necessities."

"Last year, the Tax Aide volunteers prepared tax returns that returned 5.1 million dollars in tax credits and refunds to those in need within our community. We proudly support the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition and its partners through the United Way Community Fund, recognizing that financial stability is a cornerstone of our mission. United Way actively works to improve the financial well-being of everyone in



our region. We urge individuals, families and seniors to take advantage of this free assistance by simply calling 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment."

The 28 tax preparation locations are conveniently located throughout Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties and will be staffed by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers, six days-a-week, including evenings and weekends from February 1st through April 12, 2025. Assistance will be available for the hearing-impaired.

In Dutchess County, there are 13 free AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites located in: Dover Plains, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie and Wappinger Falls.

In Orange County, there are 14 free AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites located in: Chester, Cornwall, Goshen, Greenwood Lake, Middletown, Monroe, Montgomery, Newburgh, New Windsor, Pine Bush, Port Jervis, Walden and Warwick. Many Orange County sites will have additional appointments available this season. In Putnam County the Tax-Aide volunteers will provide aid from two locations.

For additional information about the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition, including volunteer opportunities, go to www.hv-cash.org.

###

Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition services are made possible through the support of these partner organizations:

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
- AmeriCorps Seniors
- Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess County
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County
- Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County
- Fidelis Care
- Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Mount Saint Mary College
- North East Community Center
- Orange County Office for the Aging
- Poughkeepsie Plaza
- United States Internal Revenue Service
- United Way Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1
- United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region
- United Way of Putnam Westchester

#

About United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. In 2023-24, charitable contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations to United Way's Community Fund supported nonprofit partners in delivering services to 155,000 residents of Dutchess and Orange Counties and invested \$11,674,895 back into our community. For more information, go to www.uwdor.org.

###