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Free tax prep (for some) coming to a Wal-Mart near you

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Last year, Wal-Mart sales got a boost after the U.S. government mailed billions of dollars in tax rebate cash to consumers to help stimulate the economy.



This year, the Feds are yet again looking for ways to stimulate the economy, but [Wal-Mart](#) may have come up with a way to get more cash into its shoppers' hands.

The [Wal-Mart Foundation](#) is teaming up with the [United Way](#) and [One Economy Corp](#) to offer free U.S. tax preparation and filing services for individuals earning less than \$56,000 per year.

The foundation said five mobile tax center vans would [visit various Wal-Mart parking lots](#) for two to three weeks between Feb. 10 and April 11. The vans will be equipped with One Economy's online tax filing technology and [Internal Revenue Service](#)-certified tax professionals.

Qualifying individuals will be able to visit the vans to file their taxes free of charge, ahead of the IRS deadline on April 15.

Wal-Mart said the partnership is meant to help raise awareness of the federal [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) for low-to-moderate-income individuals and families.

"This tax season, more Americans may be eligible for tax refunds due to the state of the economy and declining job market," said Wal-Mart Foundation President Margaret McKenna. "That's why we're stepping up our efforts and bringing free tax filing access directly to the communities we serve."

Based on the estimate that 225,000 tax returns will be completed, the Wal-Mart Foundation says the effort has the potential to return \$300 million in EITC refunds and save \$45 million in tax preparation fees.

If you get a tax rebate this year, how are you planning to spend it?

(Photo: Reuters)