

SACRAMENTO MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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SMHA Offers Tax Prep Internship in Exchange For Volunteer Income Tax Prep

Starting in January, Sacramento Mutual Housing Association (SMHA) will offer tax preparation internships for people who want to learn tax preparation. The training will take three Saturdays: January 13th, 20th and 27th. The sessions last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch is included.

In exchange the free training, interns must agree to work a minimum of four (4) hours a week from February 1st through April 15th preparing 2006 tax returns for low-income families at SMHA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site in North Sacramento

"The advantage of the program is that participants will get training and hands-on experience preparing returns that may help them get a paid tax preparer's job with a private company like H&R Block, the Internal Revenue Service or the Franchise Tax Board for seasonal jobs during tax season," said Anne Marie Flynn, SMHA VIDA (Valley Initiative for Developing Assets) Coordinator.

In addition to helping people who want to learn how to prepare taxes, the program also saves low-income people hundred of dollars in tax preparation fees.

The SMHA program is one of many aimed at local low-income residents that help them get ahead financially. Other SMHA programs include a financial education workshop series and the creation of an Individual Development Account, which helps people who have graduated from the financial education workshops save money for a home, a business start-up or further education. Citibank is a partial sponsor of these programs.

The tax preparation program is a partnership with the IRS with funding help from NeighborWorks America.

For more information on the tax prep internships, contact Anne Marie Flynn, SMHA VIDA Coordinator at 916. 923.2232. Or email her at annemarie@mutualhousing.com.

SMHA develops and operates affordable housing that builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. Resident participation is the key to SMHA's success. Residents have governing councils at each property, are involved in virtually every aspect of the organization, and make up the majority of the board of directors.

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