



Creating Assets, Savings & Hope

Midcoast CA\$H

An Initiative of the
United Way of Mid Coast Maine



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Mid Coast Maine

Tax Year (2021) Summary

Midcoast CA\$H provides free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers to households earning up to \$58,000. In addition, clients are provided with asset-building education about tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Childcare Tax Credit (CTC), debt reduction programs, credit review, and other strategies. The EITC and CTC reward work and reduce poverty for working families with children. This service is totally FREE, saving tax filers approximately \$175 (the cost of commercial tax preparation) per filing, and ensures they receive all the credits they're entitled to.

2021 Tax Returns

Federal returns filed: 314
Total federal refund: \$482,000

State returns filed: 314
Total Maine Refund: \$168,400

Volunteers

Volunteers: 12 tax preparers
3 Asset Educators

Total Volunteer hours: 431

Total Federal EITC: \$129,849
Total Child Tax Credit: \$137,050

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$650,400

Midcoast CA\$H goes beyond the actual tax preparation. The following quotes from tax clients demonstrate what clients take away from the process beyond the completed return.

- "I didn't know you could open an IRA before 4/15 to reduce your tax burden" (59-year-old woman)
- "We started a little savings... I was behind on electricity and cable and we are now up to date with them. We were able to get the car registered and licensed... as of today, we have about \$500 in our savings account". (Richard – a low income Mainer who had not filed his taxes in over 20 years)
- "I had two, \$500 car repairs that were put onto a credit card. With my refunds I can pay them back. I can breathe easy now!" (72 year old tax filer)
- "I didn't know" – the most common phrase from our tax filers this year, not knowing that they could receive the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Additional assistance provided:

In the spring of 2022, Governor Mills announced a relief check of \$850 for all Mainers, , may of whom are elderly, disabled and have not had to pay taxes for many years. Midcoast CA\$H recognized this went above and beyond our traditional season with 8 volunteer taxes preparers stepping in to prepare taxes for those who do not usually file their state income tax. To be eligible for an \$850 relief check these Mainers needed to file their taxes. We served over 200 households, many of whom were disabled and elderly, providing \$170,000 in State relief checks to our community and almost \$57,000 in refunds, much of which was not anticipated by tax filing clients.

Season Sponsors – Bath Savings Institution, Bowdoin College, CEI, Davenport Trust, Internal Revenue Service, John T. Gorman Foundation, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, Midcoast Maine Community Action, New Ventures Maine, United Way of Mid Coast Maine