Press Release

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The Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation's tax season will start on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, when the tax agency will begin accepting and processing 2021 tax year returns.

The January 24 start date for individual tax return filers allows the IRS time to perform programming and testing that is critical to ensuring IRS systems run smoothly. Updated programming helps ensure that eligible people can claim the proper amount of the Child Tax Credit after comparing their 2021 advance credits and claim any remaining stimulus money as a Recovery Rebate Credit when they file their 2021 tax return.

"Planning for the nation's filing season process is a massive undertaking, and IRS teams have been working non-stop these past several months to prepare," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The pandemic continues to create challenges, but the IRS reminds people there are important steps they can take to help ensure their tax return and refund don't face processing delays. Filing electronically with direct deposit and avoiding a paper tax return is more important than ever this year. And we urge extra attention to those who received an Economic Impact Payment or an advance Child Tax Credit last year. People should make sure they report the correct amount on their tax return to avoid delays."

Free tax preparation sites will be available throughout our communities for those who are eligible. For those in Otsego County, call 2-1-1 (for Mondays and Tuesday evenings) or (607) 432-1980 (for Saturdays), or (607)-431-4338 (for Zoom or Drop-off options) to determine eligibility and schedule an appointment. In Chenango County, call 607-334-5841 Ext.1118 to determine eligibility and make an appointment to drop off your materials for tax preparation. In Madison County, call 315-697-3588 Ext. 17 to determine eligibility and to make an appointment to drop off your materials for tax preparation. "We are very excited to be partnering with Hartwick College in Otsego County, Colgate University in Madison County and many volunteers in all three counties to help provide this free tax assistance to families this year, "said Elizabeth Monaco, Executive Director of the Chenango United Way and the United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties. "The Earned Income Tax Credit is the number one federal program that helps to move families out of poverty each year and these VITA sites are so important to families in our communities."

The IRS encourages everyone to have all the information they need in hand to make sure they file a complete and accurate return. Having an accurate tax return can avoid processing delays, refund delays and later IRS notices. This is especially important for people who received advance Child Tax Credit payments or Economic Impact Payments (American Rescue Plan stimulus payments) in 2021; they will need the amounts of these payments when preparing their

tax return. The IRS is mailing special letters to recipients, and they can also check amounts received on IRS.gov.

Like last year, there will be individuals filing tax returns who, even though they are not required to file, need to file a 2021 return to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit to receive the tax credit from the 2021 stimulus payments or reconcile advance payments of the Child Tax Credit. People who don’t normally file also could receive other credits.