

FACT SHEET

Prisoner Re-entry Tax Education Program



Key Points

What it is?

Get Right with Your Taxes – an educational package – is information individuals need to know about their tax responsibilities.

Who can use it?

- Prison officials
- Halfway houses
- Community organizations

Who benefits from the information in this package?

As taxpayers, everyone can benefit from this information. While it is geared to a specific “prisoner” population, the content pertains to tax compliance and may be used for other outreach opportunities.

How to request copies?

- 800-TAX-FORM
- irs.gov/formspubs/index.html
- partner@irs.gov
- Relationship managers

Why use it?

Re-entry presents a major opportunity to educate and improve tax compliance.

Prisoner Statistics*

- 95% will be released back to the community
- >700,000 annual releases from state and federal prisons
- >9 million cycle through local jails each year

* Source- Federal Interagency Re-entry Council.

Background

Nationwide – The Administration has made prisoner re-entry a priority. The Federal Bureau of Prisons will lead 18 other federal agencies in a nationwide initiative to encourage federal, state and local prison officials to conduct re-entry educational training sessions. The sessions are for prisoners who are scheduled to be released from correctional facilities within six to 12 months. The focus is to prepare the participants to re-enter society.

IRS Service-wide – The IRS formed a Service-wide team as a result of the IRS Prisoner Tax Compliance Summit held in August 2010. The overall mission of this team is to achieve increased prisoner tax compliance, reduce erroneous refunds and increase effectiveness for the management of prisoner tax returns. The Prisoner Tax Compliance Strategic Plan has five focus areas: Data Exchange, Compliance, Outreach, MOU Initiative and Legislative. The IRS Prisoner Outreach Initiative Team was established as an IRS team to address one of the focus areas.

Outreach – The Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication office is charged with leading the Outreach Team. The goal of this team is to educate prisoners on their filing responsibilities upon re-entry. The team recognized the needs of this population, identified opportunities for tax education and created a plan for delivery.

Opportunity Statement

SPEC is taking a progressive approach by extending outreach to prisoners in an effort to improve prisoner tax compliance. SPEC will leverage the nationwide network of correctional facilities to deliver this program. The stand-alone lesson is intended to be a part of the nationwide re-entry educational and training programs targeted to prisoners scheduled for release.

The network of partners consists of: National Institute of Corrections; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; U.S. Department of Justice; Bureau of Justice Assistance; Federal Judicial Center Department of Education; U.S. Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services; Legal Action Center; Association of Probation and Payroll; American Correctional Association; correctional officials from all 50 states, and more.

Next Steps

The SPEC organization held two successful pilot programs using materials and educational products to address basic tax filing and tax compliance issues that directly affected this target population. As a result of the programs, SPEC created the **Get Right with Your Taxes Educational Program** to be used by prison officials conducting the re-entry sessions. The Outreach Team will leverage partners’ networks and appropriate avenues to ensure that local, state and national correctional facilities include these stand-alone educational products as an additional topic for the re-entry education lessons used by prison officials. A facilitator does not need to have a tax law background to present this re-entry tax education program.

Get Right with Your Taxes Educational Program

Publication	Intended Use/Audience	Ordering Guidelines
Publication 4931 (DVD) - Get Right With Your Taxes DVD	Intended for viewing at each session, geared to the target prisoner audience	One copy per correctional facility
Publication 4924 - Get Right With Your Taxes Facilitator's Guide	Provides detailed instructions to anyone administering the outreach sessions	One copy per facilitator
Publication 4925 - Get Right With Your Taxes Life Cycle Brochure	Written for the target prisoner audience. Contains helpful resources and tax information	One copy for each audience member/re-entry program participant

The availability of these products will be announced via email to the partners' networks. The products will be placed on the [Partner and Volunteer Resource Center](#) on IRS.gov. Partners and networks can freely share the email with others to ensure that all correctional officials conducting the re-entry training programs have access to the electronic versions of the products. Correctional officials may view or order these products by one of the following means:

1. Through the IRS toll-free number, **800-TAX-FORM** (800-829-3676)
2. Online from the [IRS Forms and publications](#) web page
3. By sending an email to the partner@irs.gov email address (using Subject line: Get right with your taxes), or
4. By contacting their **local SPEC relationship manager**.

The SPEC Team will monitor the program implementation and make adjustments as required. The team will also develop a longer-term strategy for expanding the program to other prisons and related facilities as needed.