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Mar. 14, 2016

The [Internal Revenue Service](#) says that federal income tax refunds totaling \$950 million are waiting for an estimated one million taxpayers who did not file a federal income tax return for 2012. To collect the money, these taxpayers must file a 2012 tax return with the IRS no later than this year's April tax deadline. CPAs and Enrolled Agents (EAs) can help taxpayers file past-year returns.

"A surprising number of people across the country overlook claiming tax refunds each year. But the clock is ticking for taxpayers who didn't file a 2012 federal income tax return, leaving nearly \$1 billion in refunds unclaimed," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "We especially encourage students and others who didn't earn much money to look into this situation because they may still be entitled to a refund. Don't forget, there's no penalty for filing a late return if you're due a refund."

The IRS estimates the midpoint for potential refunds for 2012 to be \$718, with half being worth more than \$718 and half being worth less.

In cases where a tax return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If no return is filed to claim a refund within three years, the money becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2012 tax returns, the window closes on April 18, 2016 (or April 19 for taxpayers in Maine and Massachusetts). The law requires the tax return to be properly addressed, mailed and postmarked by that date.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2012 refund that their checks may be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2013 and 2014. In addition, the refund will be applied to

any amounts still owed to the IRS, or their state tax agency, and may be used to offset

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children,

- \$41,952 (\$47,162 if married filing jointly) for people with two qualifying children,
- \$36,920 (\$42,130 if married filing jointly) for those with one qualifying child, and
- \$13,980 (\$19,190 if married filing jointly) for people without qualifying children.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the IRS.gov Forms and Publications page, or by calling toll-free: 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for the years 2012, 2013 or 2014 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer.

Taxpayers who are unable to get missing forms from their employer or other payer should go to IRS.gov and use the "Get a Transcript by Mail" button to order a paper copy of their transcript and have it sent to their address of record. Taxpayers can also file Form 4506-T to request a transcript of their tax return. Taxpayers can use the information on the transcript to file their return.

Individuals who did not file a 2012 return with a potential refund:

	Estimated	Median	Total
State or District	Number of	Potential	Potential
	Individuals	Refund	Refunds*
Alabama	18,700	\$713	\$16,684,000
Alaska	4,700	\$834	\$5,019,000
Arizona	26,000	\$631	\$22,078,000

Arkansas	10,100	\$692	\$8,987,000
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Columbia	3,600	\$741	\$3,343,000
Florida	64,700	\$721	\$58,598,000
Georgia	34,300	\$642	\$29,395,000
Hawaii	6,500	\$740	\$6,091,000
Idaho	4,400	\$607	\$3,652,000
Illinois	40,300	\$782	\$38,893,000
Indiana	22,000	\$751	\$20,448,000
Iowa	10,800	\$764	\$9,917,000
Kansas	11,000	\$699	\$9,811,000
Kentucky	13,500	\$746	\$12,122,000
Louisiana	20,600	\$726	\$19,767,000
Maine	4,100	\$651	\$3,432,000
Maryland	22,600	\$722	\$21,108,000
Massachusetts	20,600	\$767	\$19,714,000
Michigan	34,600	\$733	\$32,118,000
Minnesota	15,200	\$657	\$12,981,000

Mississippi	10,800	\$646	\$9,325,000
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New Jersey	30,600	\$803	\$30,016,000
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New Mexico	7,700	\$715	\$7,181,000
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New York	57,600	\$796	\$56,310,000
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North Carolina	29,700	\$619	\$24,469,000
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North Dakota	2,600	\$831	\$2,682,000
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Ohio	37,300	\$717	\$33,321,000
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Oklahoma	18,500	\$744	\$17,411,000
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Oregon	15,700	\$620	\$12,820,000
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Pennsylvania	40,200	\$796	\$38,243,000
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Rhode Island	3,200	\$777	\$3,014,000
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South Carolina	12,500	\$633	\$10,648,000
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South Dakota	2,800	\$785	\$2,707,000
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Tennessee	19,700	\$702	\$17,318,000
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Texas	96,400	\$771	\$93,998,000
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Utah	7,400	\$640	\$6,316,000
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Vermont	2,000	\$698	\$1,689,000
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Virginia

29,000

\$698

\$26,297,000

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