



News Release

Lifeline, Inc.

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Lifeline, Inc. Seeking Volunteers to Assist with Income Tax Assistance Program

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PAINESVILLE, Ohio— Lifeline, Inc., Lake and Geauga Counties' Community Action Agency, is currently seeking volunteers tax preparers to assist low to moderate income households with tax preparation for the 2023 tax season. This program is offered in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) office in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lifeline, Inc. will provide free tax preparation to qualifying Lake and Geauga County residents beginning in mid-January and continuing through April of 2023 as part of the IRS developed Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The program trains volunteers to prepare federal and state tax returns for working families, elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

Anyone can volunteer. No previous tax experience is necessary, only a desire to help others in need. Volunteers participate in several training levels and our staff are here to fully support our volunteers. Once certified, volunteers will be scheduled to assist with tax preparation January through April. Lifeline, Inc. will use computers to electronically prepare and transmit tax returns.

Volunteers can make a real difference in the lives of working families by helping them remain compliant with IRS regulations and filings and allowing them to take advantage of every tax benefit to which they are entitled. Because this program files tax returns electronically, it allows for fast refunds to the taxpayer. This service also affords that tax dollars due the federal, state, and local governments are received by those governments in order to maintain and protect your communities.

For more information, please contact Katrina Graves, Program Coordinator at Lifeline, Inc., at 440-354-2148 extension 231 or katrinag@lclifeline.org

Lifeline's VITA tax clinics are supported by the United Way of Lake County and through the federal Community Services Block Grant. For more information on Lifeline, visit us online at www.lclifeline.org. You can also follow us on Facebook to stay posted on agency programs and events.

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers was founded in 1973 with the mission of helping Lake County residents by providing them assistance and life skills programming that is designed to increase self-sufficiency. In 1980 Lifeline became a participating agency of the United Way of Lake County, UWLC, and in 1987 was designated a community action agency by the Ohio Department of Development, ODOD. In 2008, Lifeline was designated as a mental health agency by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Lifeline received interim designation as Geauga County's community action agency in 2020.

Today Lifeline continues with the same mission of helping Lake County's low-income residents break the cycle

of poverty and make the transition from agency-dependency to self-sufficiency. Lifeline's current programming includes services in the healthcare, housing & energy assistance, information & referral services, guardianship, and consumer education & job training areas. Our motto is 'helping people, changing lives.' Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Lake County ADAMHS Board, Lake County Department of Job & Family Services, the City of Mentor, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Lake Health and through private donors.