

Accounting Aid Society
Site Coordinator Update – February 14, 2026

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Trump Accounts (530A Accounts)

Accounting Aid Society has created a *530A Account (Trump Account) Information Sheet* to assist both volunteers/staff and taxpayers in understanding the account, making the election to open a Trump account, and making the election for the \$1,000 pilot program contribution. The sheet is attached to the email with this update.

Steps to take at the tax site:

- Print copies of the *530A Account (Trump Account) Information Sheet* so you will have them available for taxpayers. Preparers and quality reviewers should also be given the sheet and be advised to review the information. We hope to deliver copies of the sheets to the tax sites in the future. It will also be available on our Resources page.
- Make the sheet available for clients as they come in for their appointment. Ask if they have a child under 18 years of age, including children born in 2025 or 2026. Hand the information sheet to these clients and ask them to review the sheet.
- For the Trump Accounts question on Accounting Aid's *Preparer Return Questions* sheet, the question should read,
 - Did the taxpayer or spouse (if MFJ) have a child born in 2025 or 2026 and/or do they have other children under 18 years of age?
- If the taxpayer knows for certain that they want to open a Trump account when they arrive at the site or after reviewing the information sheet, complete Form 4547, Trump Account Election(s), for them in the software. Make sure they have a copy of the *530A Account (Trump Account) Information Sheet*.
- If the taxpayer is uncertain or doesn't feel fully informed about a Trump account, advise them that they do not have to make the election to open an account at the time they file their 2025 tax return.

If they decide later that they want to open an account for a child (and elect for the \$1,000 pilot program contribution for an eligible child), they can come back at a later time to the site where we can complete Form 4547 for them to mail, they can complete the form on their own to mail in, or they can visit trumpaccounts.gov in mid-summer 2026 for online options.

- **Reminder:** Accounting Aid Society staff and volunteers must not express an opinion on Trump accounts or offer any investment advice.

TaxSlayer Entries:

- An email address is required to open a Trump account. It appears the address must be entered on the Personal Information page in the software.
- At the bottom of the Form 4547 page in the software, there is a checkbox that is automatically checked that states, Check here if you are authorized to open the Trump Account for this child. Taxpayers should be referred to the *530A Account (Trump Account) Information Sheet* to verify they are an authorized individual to open an account for a child.

There are two meanings for an authorized individual, depending on if they are electing to only open a Trump account or electing to both open an account and elect for the \$1,000 pilot program contribution.

Form 8962, Premium Tax Credit

Repayment of Excess Advanced Premium Tax Credit

For taxpayers with health insurance through the federal Marketplace, it is important to inform them that beginning with tax year 2026 there is no repayment limitation for excess advance payment of the premium tax credit (PTC). See Part III of Form 8962. Taxpayers will have to pay the entire amount of any excess advance payment of the PTC.

For those filing Form 8962 who continue to have coverage through the Marketplace in 2026, let them know that they should call the **Marketplace at 800-318-2596** as soon as they have any changes in circumstances during the year. Changes that should be reported to the Marketplace include the following:

- Changes in household income
- Moving to a different address
- Gaining or losing eligibility for other health care coverage
- Gaining, losing, or other changes to employment
- Birth or adoption
- Marriage or divorce
- Other changes affecting the composition of their tax family
(For purposes of the PTC, the tax family consists of the taxpayer (if they file a return for the year and they can't be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return), the spouse (if filing jointly and the spouse can't be claimed as a dependent), and dependents who are claimed on the tax return.)

Stress the importance of keeping the Marketplace up to date on their situation to avoid a large repayment on their tax return for 2026. **Important:** If they have a repayment on line 29 of their 2025 Form 8962, they should call the Marketplace as soon as possible to update their household income and any other changes listed above.

Repayment of First-Time Homebuyer Credit

We typically only prepare 2025 tax returns at the tax sites. If, however, you are preparing a prior year return and the taxpayer has a repayment of the first-time homebuyer credit (from tax year 2008), be aware that the IRS look-up tool is no longer available to determine what the repayment amount should be for the prior year tax return.

If the taxpayer knows for certain what the repayment amount is, it can be entered in TaxSlayer. If they are uncertain, do not enter an amount. Advise the taxpayer that they may receive a letter or notice from the IRS that will state the full amount of the balance due for their first-time homebuyer credit.

Michigan Return

Does the taxpayer's income substantiate their rent or property taxes paid plus all other living expenses?

When making the determination if income substantiates rent or property tax plus utilities and all other living expenses, **do not use** a fixed dollar amount for the difference between total household resources and rent/property taxes plus utilities to make this determination. We realize that volunteers and staff want to know a dollar amount difference so that they would know when to question it, but each taxpayer's situation has to be looked upon on a case-by-case basis.

If you have instructed preparers otherwise, i.e., given them a specific dollar amount for the difference, please advise them not to use any fixed dollar amount when making this determination. They should ask the site coordinator for assistance.

If the taxpayer cannot explain how they meet all of their living expenses, either with additional total household resources (THR) or with income that does not have to be included in THR, do not file the Michigan credit claims. Add a Note in TaxSlayer explaining why the credit claim(s) were not filed for the client.

Notes in TaxSlayer

Reviewing Notes

It is critical that both preparers and quality reviewers look at any Notes from prior years in TaxSlayer. The information in a Note can potentially assist with preparing the current-year tax return and/or avoiding a rejected return.

IP PIN issues and Form 8962, Premium Tax Credit, not found in the return are the top two trending rejects. These may be issues that were also encountered in the prior year and a Note created last year may assist with how to proceed in the current year.

Please note that for taxpayers, spouse and/or a dependent with an IP PIN, do not file a Paper return. Every attempt should be made by the taxpayer to retrieve their IP PIN or to have it reissued before we will file the return.

Creating Notes

For staff-led sites that handle their own rejected returns, create a Note in TaxSlayer describing the reject and how it was handled. This must be done so that this information is available if we have to look at the return after season and so that it is available when preparing next year's tax return. When creating the Note, use the current date followed by "Reject" or another description that indicates what the Note is about.

Notes should also be created to explain an entry on the tax return. Some examples include:

- W-2, Box 14 – When there is an amount in Box 14 of Form W-2 where we have to select Other in TaxSlayer as the description. Create a Note that describes the amount in Box 14.
- Social Security and SSI – When a total of various amounts is entered on the Total Household Resources page in the Social Security, SSI field, indicate each amount in a Note and who received the Social Security and/or SSI.
- Paper Return – A Note should always be created to explain why the return was not electronically filed and a paper return was given to the client for mailing. The return tag, Paper Return, should also be selected.

These are just some very limited examples of when a Note should be created. Create a Note for any circumstance that will help the person looking at the return after it is filed to understand how or why an entry was made, or not made, on the return.

Very often the same information that is included in the Note in TaxSlayer, should also be notated on the federal or Michigan intake sheet. This will assist the quality reviewer and it will also provide information for the taxpayer about an entry on their tax return.

Carrying Forward Notes

At the beginning of the return in TaxSlayer, on the Pulling Prior Year Data page, please instruct preparers that they should review any Notes on the page. And that they should not uncheck a Note without the site coordinator's approval.

At the bottom of the Pulling Prior Year Data page, the preparer should ALWAYS select, Yes, Import My Data.

TaxSlayer

Main Home Was in the United States For More Than Half the Year

There is a new checkbox on page 1 of the 2025 Form 1040 for the taxpayer (and spouse, if filing Married Filing Jointly) to indicate if their main home was in the U.S. for more than half the year. The checkbox is under the field for the spouse's Social Security number.

In TaxSlayer, near the bottom of the Personal Information page, they have this question as shown below:

☒ Main home (and spouse if filing joint) was in the United States for more than half the year? (Military personnel on extended active duty outside the U.S. are considered to be living in the U.S. during that duty period.)

In most cases, this box is automatically checked by the software. However, there have been reports to TaxSlayer that the box is unchecked for some taxpayers, which would prevent them from getting certain credits and deductions, i.e., the earned income tax credit.

Please verify that, if applicable, this box is checked on the Personal Information page, especially if the taxpayer is eligible for an earned income tax credit or other credit/deduction and you are not seeing the credit/deduction on the PDF of the return. You can also check page 1 of the PDF of the 1040 at the top right to see if the box is checked.

Social Security Number Not Valid For Employment

Currently, there is no way in the software to indicate if a Social Security number (SSN) is not valid for employment. SSNs valid for employment (issued by the due date of the return) are required in order to claim certain credits and deductions. (E.g., earned income tax credit (EITC), child tax credit (CTC), enhanced deduction for seniors, no tax on tips, no tax on overtime. For the EITC and CTC, the taxpayers and qualifying children all need SSNs that are valid for employment. For a Married Filing Jointly Return, only one spouse is required to have a valid SSN to claim the CTC/ACTC.)

TaxSlayer has stated that they will be adding a checkbox to the software to indicate if the SSN is not valid for employment. By checking the box, it would then remove any credit(s) or deduction(s) that require a valid SSN.

If you have a taxpayer, spouse or dependent with a Social Security number **not** valid for employment, please add a Note in TaxSlayer and hold the return until TaxSlayer has updated the software. Make a note of the return so that it can be revisited later once the software update has been implemented.