

Accounting Aid Society
Site Coordinator Update – April 11, 2026

CONTENTS:

- E-file Transmissions
- Filing an Extension
- Postmark Date at USPS
- Best Practices:
 - Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit of \$1,900
 - Help to Reduce the Number of Rejected Returns
- Processing of 2025 Michigan Refunds – Information from Michigan Department of Treasury
- Site Clean-Up
- Thank You!

E-file Transmissions

During these last couple of days of the filing season’s tax site operations, please transmit e-file returns periodically throughout the day, if possible, so that any rejects can be handled more easily and timely, especially for tax sites that close this Saturday or Monday.

Our recommendation for e-file returns:

- For **ALL** tax returns prepared in the next few days, please verify the phone number the client has listed on the intake sheet, letting them know that it is critical that we have a phone number where we can reach them in the event there is an issue with their electronically filed tax return.
- Transmit returns periodically throughout the day, or even after the taxpayer signs Form 8879, if possible.
- Ask the client to wait, if possible, until the IRS acknowledgement is received.
 - If the return is accepted, advise the client of the accepted federal return, that their Michigan return will now automatically be e-filed, and that acknowledgement of the Michigan return should be received within the next 24 hours.
 - If the return is rejected, volunteer-led sites should please call Kathy Holka so a resolution can be made while the client is still at the tax site. Kathy should also be contacted if the client was unable to stay.
- Kathy will continue to handle the rejected returns for the volunteer tax sites.

For ALL tax returns, both e-file and paper, please make sure taxpayers are aware of the due date for the returns and for any tax owed on a return.

Be sure to add Notes in TaxSlayer that will help explain any unusual circumstance or the status of a return.

Filing an Extension

Reminder: Refer to the March 28th update for instruction on filing an extension (and last week’s update for mailing addresses). Remember, it is an extension for filing, not paying. If a taxpayer believes they will owe tax on a return, they should pay that balance, or as much as they can, by the due date.

Postmark Date at USPS

Reminder: Due to changes this year at the United States Postal Service (USPS), taxpayers should be told to mail their returns, extension request, or any payment a few days before the due date for the return or payment to ensure that it is postmarked by the due date. **They cannot rely on the date they mail it will be the postmark date.**

If they want to be certain of the postmark date, they should go into a retail Post Office location and request a manual (local) postmark at the retail counter. Manual postmarks will be applied free of charge.

Best Practices

Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit of \$1,900

If a taxpayer is receiving the maximum credit allowed of \$1,900 on their 2025 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim, additional questions should be asked and information verified:

- Verify that total household resources (THR) is enough to cover **all** of their living expenses, including rent or property taxes paid, heating costs and other utilities (including cell phone), food, clothing, medical expenses, transportation expenses, etc.

Note: This determination is done on a case-by-case basis. There is not a set dollar amount for the difference between THR and living expenses that is used when questioning the client on how they meet paying all of their expenses.

- If they live in subsidized housing, make sure only the portion that the taxpayer paid is being claimed.
- Confirm if they received any gifts of cash during 2025 or if any expenses were paid on their behalf.
- Ask if their name is the only name on title to the home or on the lease contract.
- Confirm if there were any other individuals living in the home with them and, if so, did they contribute to rent/property taxes or any other expenses.

Help to Reduce the Number of Rejected Returns

- Addressing **Notes in TaxSlayer** and **Warnings Concerning Your Federal Return** can help to reduce the number of rejected returns. We are asking again that you please remind all staff and volunteers that preparers AND quality reviewers **must** review these items. Preparers should be contacting the site coordinator for any Warnings that appear when they go to the Summary/Print page in TaxSlayer, and any Notes on that page that have not been addressed.
- Practice extra due diligence during these last days of the filing season and double-check Social Security numbers, employer EINS (employer identification numbers), and payer EINs to ensure there are no typos or numbers transposed.

Processing of 2025 Michigan Refunds – Information from Michigan Department of Treasury

Michigan Department of Treasury has asked for our assistance in helping taxpayers understand the current state of refund processing and the factors that most often lead to delays. Treasury has included [Tax Year 2025 Return Processing Updates](#) that outlines the filing season's progress, common reasons some returns take longer to process, and important guidance for taxpayers checking their refund status. This information is linked on the [Tax Year 2025 Information](#) page on their website.

Guidance for taxpayers checking their refund status:

- **E-filed Returns:** Allow 4—6 weeks from the date the taxpayer received an “accepted” confirmation.
- **Paper Returns:** Allow 6—8 weeks from the mailing date.
- Status information is updated overnight Monday—Friday.

Please take the time to read the information at [Tax Year 2025 Return Processing Updates](#) and share the link with taxpayers if there are questions on the processing of their Michigan return.

Treasury shares that:

“Most refunds continue to be issued within the normal 4–6 week timeframe. However, around 10 percent of returns require additional review for reasons such as missing or incorrect information, identity verification to protect against fraudulent activity, or the presence of refundable credits or debts/garnishments requiring intercept. These extra steps—while necessary to ensure accuracy, security, and fairness—do extend processing time for some filers.

In recent weeks, we have also seen an increase in call volumes related to inaccurate or incomplete information circulating on social media. Posts that oversimplify refund timing, misinterpret status messages, promote incorrect assumptions about review processes, or question the validity of authentic Treasury letters, are contributing to confusion and repeat calls. This creates longer wait times for all taxpayers, including those who truly need assistance.

We are asking for your help to amplify accurate information and set realistic expectations for your constituents, members, and networks.

Specifically, you can support taxpayers by:

- Sharing the linked tax season update materials through newsletters, websites, and constituent communications
- Reinforcing the expected processing timelines for e-filed and paper returns
- Encouraging taxpayers to use Michigan Treasury eServices as the fastest way to check refund status or respond to Treasury
- Discouraging reliance on social media posts for refund timing information
- Emphasizing that repeated calls do not speed up processing and can contribute to delays for others.”

Site Clean-Up

Equipment and supplies will be picked up from our seasonal tax sites early next week. If you have any personal items at these sites, please be sure to take them with you at the end of your last day.

THANK YOU

As April 15th quickly approaches and we wrap up our final Saturday of the filing season, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the hard work, dedication, and compassion each of you has shown.

Because of you, more than 18,600 families and individuals have already received assistance this year from us. That is an incredible accomplishment, one that you should all be truly proud of. Thank you again for everything you do... The momentum continues to build!