Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program

Applicant Information Sheet

The 2025-26 Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program (Program) is authorized by South Carolina FY26 Proviso 1A.45 and is administered by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA). The Program is intended to encourage classroom teachers to seek and maintain employment within the 46 rural districts identified through the Proviso. Under the Program, eligible classroom teachers may apply for up to $5,000 per year to be applied to the balance on any **undergraduate** loan for which no other loan forgiveness options apply. Assistant teachers, media specialists, reading coaches, school counselors, and speech-language pathologists are not eligible for forgiveness through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

We strongly recommend all potential applicants review the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Who is eligible?

In order to receive funds through the Program, teachers must have been employed full-time in a classroom setting for at least 152 days during the 2025-26 school year in one of the following South Carolina school districts: Abbeville, Allendale, Anderson 3, Anderson 5, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon 3, Dillon 4, Dorchester 4, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence 1, Florence 3, Greenwood 50, Greenwood 51, Greenwood 52, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Lee, Lexington 2, Lexington 3, Lexington 4, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda, Spartanburg 2, Spartanburg 3, Spartanburg 4, Spartanburg 7, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, York 1, or York 4.

Teachers must have first exhausted all other loan forgiveness options before applying for this Program. For more information about federal loan forgiveness options, visit the Teacher Loan Forgiveness page on the Federal Student Aid website at: https://tinyurl.com/ya7txdst. SC Teaching Fellows Loans and SC Teachers Loans are not eligible for forgiveness through this Program. **Parent Plus loans where you, as the parent, serve as the cosigner or surety for the child are not eligible for forgiveness through this Program.**

How do teachers apply?

Teachers may obtain an application through their school district's Human Resources Department or from CERRA's website at www.cerra.org. The application must be completed and **delivered** to CERRA between **May 15, 2026, and June 15, 2026**. Applications and required documentation, including a complete W-9 form, delivered before May 15, 2026, or after June 15, 2026, will not be considered.

Along with the paper application, applicants must also submit documentation of outstanding loan balances. This documentation must come directly from the loan lender and must include the following information:

- applicant's name
- lender's name (original or consolidating lender)
- original/first undergraduate loan distribution dates
- current amount due, including the principal balance
- the interest accrued
- any penalty or late fees imposed
- loan status (repayment, deferment, forbearance, delinquent, default)
- monthly payment amount
- and the due date for the May and June 2026 payment.

If an undergraduate loan has been consolidated by the loan lender, applicants must contact their loan lender and/or the appropriate state or federal education agency(s) to obtain the original/first undergraduate loan distribution dates. CERRA cannot complete this step on the applicant's behalf. Applicants also must submit a copy of their teaching certificate and a completed W-9 tax form.

Applications and documentation must be submitted at the same time in one envelope. Applications submitted without the required loan documentation and a complete W-9 form will not be considered. Emailed applications, loan documentation, and/or W-9 forms will not be considered. CERRA is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

What else do applicants need to know?
Applicants will receive an email informing them if their application has been approved or denied. The 2025-2026 Program **will close by June 15th, 2026**, or at such time all available funds have been disbursed.

Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Which districts have been identified as rural through FY26 SC Legislative Proviso 1A.45?

Abbeville	Dillon 4	Lancaster	Saluda
Allendale	Dorchester 4	Laurens 55	Spartanburg 2
Anderson 3	Edgefield	Laurens 56	Spartanburg 3
Anderson 5	Fairfield	Lee	Spartanburg 4
Bamberg	Florence 1	Lexington 2	Spartanburg 7
Barnwell	Florence 3	Lexington 3	Sumter
Chester	Greenwood 50	Lexington 4	Union
Chesterfield	Greenwood 51	Marion	Williamsburg
Clarendon	Greenwood 52	Marlboro	York 1
Colleton	Hampton	McCormick	York 4
Darlington	Jasper	Newberry	
Dillon 3	Kershaw	Orangeburg	

What are the eligibility requirements to apply?

An applicant must have been employed as a full-time classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-26 academic year at a school in one of the 46 designated rural districts. They must have an outstanding **undergraduate** loan balance and **not be eligible for loan forgiveness through any other programs**. Assistant teachers, media specialists, reading coaches, school counselors, and speech-language pathologists are not eligible for forgiveness through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

How do I know if I am eligible for other loan forgiveness programs?

Perkins, Direct, and Stafford federal loans may be eligible for forgiveness. For more information about these loan forgiveness programs visit the Federal Student Loan website at: https://tinyurl.com/ya7txdst. **Applicants with Perkins, Direct, or Stafford federal loans who teach in an eligible low-income elementary, middle, or secondary school but who do not have five years of service at the school are not eligible for loan forgiveness through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.** These teachers must wait until after their fifth year of service at the school and then exhaust the available forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program or the Perkins Cancellation Program. Applicants may access the Teacher Cancellation Low Income (TCLI) list of eligible schools at: https://tinyurl.com/5xuvu6je. If a school is included in the TCLI Directory for at least one year of a teacher's service but is not included during subsequent years, those subsequent years of teaching at the school will still be counted toward the required five complete and consecutive academic years of teaching.

SC Teaching Fellows and SC Teachers Loans are not forgivable through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

I have a federal Perkins, Direct, or Stafford student loan and have been teaching for more than five years but just started at an eligible school as determined by the federal list. Can I apply for Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program?

No. Applicants must exhaust all other loan forgiveness options before applying for forgiveness through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

I am employed as a classroom teacher at a Career and Technology Center or Alternative Learning Center in one of the 46 districts that have been identified as rural through FY26 SC Legislative Proviso 1A.45. Can I apply?

Yes. As long as the Career and Technology Center or Alternative Learning Center is considered part of one of the 46 districts that have been identified as rural through FY26 SC Legislative Proviso 1A.45 and you are employed as a full-time classroom teacher, you are eligible to apply.

My loan is in collections, is delinquent, and/or in default. Can I apply?

No. We will not issue Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds for loans that are currently in collections or are considered to be delinquent or in default.

I consolidated my undergraduate student loan(s) through a third party. Can I apply?

No. We cannot issue Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds for undergraduate student loans that have been consolidated through a third party.

My loans were consolidated by my student loan lender. Can I apply?

Yes. You must submit documentation showing that all consolidated loans were your personal **undergraduate** student loans. Furthermore, your documentation must include the loan origination date and balance prior to the consolidation. CERRA cannot request this information on your behalf.

I received a Parent Plus Loan for my child's undergraduate education. Can Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds be used to repay this loan?

No. We cannot issue Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds for Parent Plus Loans.

My parents received a Parent Plus Loan for my undergraduate education. Can Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds be used to repay this loan?

No. Since the Parent Plus Loan is not in your name, we cannot issue Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds for these loans.

How do I apply for the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program?

Teachers may obtain an application through their school district's Human Resources Department or from CERRA's website at: www.cerra.org, under Services and Rural Recruitment Initiative. The completed application (all four pages) should be submitted to CERRA during the specified application time period, along with the required loan documentation, a copy of your teaching certificate, and the complete W-9 form. Incomplete applications, applications that do not include these required documents, and applications received outside the specified time period will not be considered. Pay careful attention to the bold text on the application, as this text feature is often used to indicate the documentation that must be submitted along with the application.

Why must I provide a copy of my SC teaching certificate?

We require you to submit a copy of your SC teaching certificate so that we can determine if you are eligible for the federal loan forgiveness programs. You may print a copy of your certificate from the SC Department of Education website.

What does the signature of my District's Chief Personnel Administrator or designee mean?

Your district's Chief Personnel Administrator or designee is only confirming your employment in the district. They are not verifying that you are eligible for funds from the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program. Your school-level administrator cannot sign the form.

What is the time period for submitting applications?

Applications will be accepted between **May 15, 2026, and June 15, 2026**. Applications must be **delivered** no earlier than May 15, 2026, and no later than June 15, 2026. Any applications **delivered** outside of this time period will not be considered. We recommend sending applications via a method that allows for tracking and offers proof of delivery.

Where do I submit my application?

Applications in envelopes should be mailed to CERRA at the following address:

Winthrop University
Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA)
Attn: Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program
2020 Alumni Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Applications in boxes or shipped with FedEx or UPS should be mailed to the following address:

Winthrop University
Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA)
Attn: Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program (Withers 402)
349 Columbia Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29733

If you plan to hand deliver your application, please contact us via email at **loanforgiveness@cerra.org** to make arrangements to drop off your information.

Applications and all required documentation, including a complete W-9 form, must be submitted in one envelope. Emailed applications, loan documentation, and/or W-9 forms will not be considered. CERRA is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

How will I know if my application is received?

We recommend sending applications via a method that allows for tracking and offers proof of delivery. We will not verify receipt.

How will I know if my application is approved or denied?

Applications are processed in the order they are received, and applicants will be notified by email whether their application is approved or denied. It may take four to six weeks for the email to be sent. Please list an email account that you check frequently and also search your spam folder for emails from **loanforgiveness@cerra.org.**

If my application is denied, will I receive notification about the reasons why it was not approved?

No. Due to the volume of applications we receive and the short time period for this program, CERRA cannot issue individual statements explaining our decisions.

How long will the refund process take?

Checks will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. It may take up to six weeks to approve an application and an additional three or more weeks to process the check after an application has been approved. In most cases, checks are issued by the end of September. Checks will be issued through Winthrop University.

Can the check be made out to my lender?

No. The check will be made out to you and will be sent to the address provided on your W-9. The IRS views these funds as “income” and you must report the funds received on your taxes. If you receive more than $600 Winthrop University will issue a 1099-MISC tax statement in February 2026.

Can I use the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds to make monthly or partial payments on my loan?

No. The full amount of the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds provided to you must be applied to your loan in a lump sum. If you apply for funds in subsequent years, you will be required to submit proof that the funds were applied to your loan(s) in a lump sum.

I served as a classroom teacher for the entire year but was only certified for part of the year (less than 152 days). My district paid me as a substitute teacher or assistant until I was fully certified. Am I eligible?

No. You must have been fully certified and paid on the teacher salary schedule for the required 152 days in order to be eligible for the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

Can I use the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program funds to pay for additional undergraduate courses needed to maintain my teaching certificate?

No. Costs incurred for additional undergraduate courses taken in order to maintain teacher certification do not qualify for loan forgiveness under the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.

Can you pull my information from a previous application?

No. Each application year is independent of any previous years. Applicants must submit a complete application each year.

Any other questions?

All correspondence will be handled through email. Please email us at **loanforgiveness@cerra.org**. Note that this email account is not monitored outside of the application window.

Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program

Applicant Checklist

For all applicants:

- ☐ I reviewed the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program Applicant Information Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions Document.
- ☐ I have completed all four pages of the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program application, and my application is legible.
- ☐ My District's Chief Personnel Administrator or designee completed the "Verification of Employment" section of my application. Note: Your school-level administrator cannot sign this form.
- ☐ I remembered to sign and date the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness application at the bottom of page three.
- ☐ I included a **copy** of my SC teaching certificate with my application.
- ☐ I included documentation directly from my loan lender with the following information: my full name, my lender's name (original or consolidating lender), the original/first undergraduate loan distribution dates, the current amount due, including the principal balance, the interest accrued, any penalty or late fees imposed, loan status (repayment, deferment, forbearance, delinquent, default), monthly payment amount, and the due date for the May or June 2026 payment.
- ☐ I included a complete W-9 with my application and I signed the W-9 under Part II, Certification.

For some applicants, please check all that apply:

- ☐ I have a **federal Direct or Stafford student loan** and **have** taught for 5 years or longer at an eligible elementary, middle, or secondary school but had not previously applied for loan forgiveness through the **federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program,** so I included a copy of the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program application.
- ☐ I have a **federal Perkins student loan** and **have** taught for 5 years or longer at an eligible elementary, middle, or secondary school but had not previously applied for loan forgiveness through the **Perkins Cancellation Program,** so I included a copy of the Perkins Cancellation Program application.
- ☐ I was **denied** forgiveness for my **federal Direct** student loan because I had a balance as of October 1, 1998, so I included documentation that my request for forgiveness was denied for this reason.
- ☐ I **exhausted** my loan forgiveness options through the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and/or the Perkins Cancellation Program, **but still have a remaining balance on my loan,** so I included a statement from my loan lender indicating the amount I received and the date when I received the federal funds.
- ☐ I **previously received Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Funds,** so I provided the required documentation from my loan lender indicating the full amount of the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness funds previously received were applied in a lump sum to my federal/private student loan.

Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program Application

FY26 SC Legislative Proviso 1A.45

Applicant Information

Full name:		
Former last name(s) (maiden or married):		
SSN:		**How many years have you been teaching in SC?**
Phone:		**Personal Email:**
Street Address:		
City:	**State:**	**ZIP Code:**
SC Certificate Number (please attach copy of your certificate to the application):		
When did you receive your undergraduate degree (month/year)?		
When did you complete your master's degree (month/year), if applicable?		
Work Email:		

Current Employment Information

One requirement to qualify for forgiveness through this program is that applicants must have been employed as a full-time classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-2026 school year in one of the 46 districts identified through FY26 Proviso 1A.45. If you were employed at more than one school during the 2025-2026 academic year, you may include the information in the additional space provided below.

Name of District	Name of School	Dates of Actual Service (mm/dd/yy-mm/dd/yy)

Verification of Employment
(To be completed by the District's Chief Personnel Administrator or designee)

District Name:			
District Address:			
District City:	District State:	District Zip Code:	District Phone:

(Verification continued on the next page)

*I certify that the Applicant named above was employed for a **minimum of 152 days** in this district during the 2025-26 academic year as a **full-time classroom teacher** during the service dates listed above for this district. Please note that **assistant teachers, media specialists, reading coaches, school counselors, and speech-language pathologists** are not eligible for forgiveness through the Rural District **Undergraduate** Loan Forgiveness Program.*

Signature of District Personnel Officer or Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title of District Personnel Officer or Superintendent: _____

Qualifications for Loan Forgiveness

Applicants applying for forgiveness toward their **federal Perkins, Direct, or Stafford student loans are required to meet the requirements and apply for forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program or the Perkins Cancellation Program before applying for loan forgiveness through the Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program.** Applicants with federal loans who have not yet taught for 5 years at an eligible school **will not** qualify for forgiveness through any of the above-listed loan forgiveness programs. Please see the Rural District **Undergraduate** Loan Forgiveness Program FAQ document for more information.

Only those teachers who are able to check one or more of the boxes in Sections A, B, C, or D below will be eligible for loan forgiveness through the Rural District **Undergraduate** Loan Forgiveness Program.

A. If you have been employed as a classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-2026 school year in one of the 46 districts identified through FY26 Proviso 1A.45 and you have a federal Direct loan, please check all that apply:

- ☐ I have taught for 5 years or longer at an eligible elementary, middle, or secondary school, and I am in the process of applying for loan forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. **If you check this box, please provide a copy of the application.**
- ☐ I am ineligible for loan forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program because I teach at an elementary, middle, or secondary school not included on the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income list or at a Career, Technical, or Vocational school.
- ☐ I was denied forgiveness for my federal Direct student loan because I had a loan balance as of October 1, 1998. **If you check this box, please provide documentation that your request for forgiveness was denied because you had a balance as of October 1, 1998.**
- ☐ I exhausted my loan forgiveness options through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program but still have a remaining balance on my **undergraduate** Direct loan. **If you checked this box, please request from your loan lender a statement that indicates you have received loan forgiveness, the date you received it, and the amount you received.**

B. If you have been employed as a classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-2026 school year in one of the 46 districts identified through FY26 Proviso 1A.45 and you have a federal Perkins loan, please check all that apply:

- ☐ I have taught for 5 years or longer at an eligible elementary, middle, or secondary school, and I am in the process of applying for loan forgiveness through the federal Perkins Cancellation Program. **If you check this box, please provide a copy of the application.**
- ☐ I am ineligible for loan forgiveness through the federal Perkins Cancellation Program because I teach at an elementary, middle, or secondary school not included on the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income list or at a Career, Technical, or Vocational school.
- ☐ I exhausted my loan forgiveness options through the federal Perkins Cancellation Program but still have a remaining balance on my **undergraduate** Perkins loan. **If you checked this box, please request from your loan lender a statement that indicates you have received loan forgiveness, the date you received it, and the amount you received.**

C. If you have been employed as a classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-2026 school year in one of the 46 districts identified through FY26 Proviso 1A.45 and you have a federal Stafford loan please check all that apply:

☐ I have taught for 5 years or longer at an eligible elementary, middle, or secondary school, and I am in the process of applying for loan forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. **If you check this box, please provide a copy of the application.**

☐ I am ineligible for loan forgiveness through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program because I teach at an elementary, middle, or secondary school not included on the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income list or at a Career, Technical, or Vocational school.

☐ I exhausted my loan forgiveness options through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program but still have a remaining balance on my undergraduate Stafford loan. **If you checked this box, please request from your loan lender a statement that indicates you have received loan forgiveness, the date you received it, and the amount you received.**

Qualifications for Loan Forgiveness Continued

D. If you have been employed as a classroom teacher for at least 152 days during the 2025-2026 school year in one of the 46 districts identified through FY26 Proviso 1A.45 and you have a private loan, please check the appropriate box below:

☐ I am seeking forgiveness towards an **undergraduate** private student loan serviced by a bank or third-party lender.

☐ I am seeking forgiveness towards an **undergraduate** SC Palmetto Loan.

Previous Loan Forgiveness Documentation

Applicants who applied and were previously approved for Rural District **Undergraduate** Loan Forgiveness funds are required to provide additional documentation from their loan lender indicating the full amount of the most recent funds received were applied to their federal/private student loan. Documentation also must indicate that the funds were applied in a lump sum, not in installments.

Applications without the required documentation from the loan lender will not be accepted.

Loan Documentation

All applicants also must attach documentation directly from the loan lender with the following information: applicant's name, lender's name (original or consolidating lender), original/first undergraduate loan distribution dates, current amount due, including the principal balance, the interest accrued, any penalty or late fees imposed, loan status (repayment, deferment, forbearance, delinquent, default), monthly payment amount, and the due date for the May or June 2026 payment.

Please be advised: Applications without the required loan documentation will not be accepted. Any loan documentation without the applicant's name and loan lender listed on the documentation will not be considered. Loan documentation with a date prior to May 15, 2026 will not be accepted.

W-9 Documentation

Since the IRS views these funds as "income," you will be required to complete and submit a W-9 form. **The W-9 must be submitted with the application and other required loan documentation. W-9 forms and loan documentation submitted via email will not be accepted.**

Terms and Conditions

*I agree to all the terms and conditions of this loan forgiveness program, as specified in this application. I certify that the information I provided is true and accurate and that all submitted loans are my personal **undergraduate** student loans.*

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your application, loan documentation, teaching certificate, and W-9 form must be **delivered between May 15, 2026, and June 15, 2026,** to the address listed below. Emailed applications, loan documentation, teaching certificates and/or W-9 forms will not be considered.

Applications in envelopes should be **mailed** to CERRA at the following address:

Winthrop University
Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA)
Attn: Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program
2020 Alumni Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Applications in boxes or shipped with FedEx or UPS should be mailed to the following address:

Winthrop University
Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA)
Attn: Rural District Undergraduate Loan Forgiveness Program (Withers 116 or 402)
349 Columbia Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29733

If you plan to **hand deliver** your application, please contact us via email at **loanforgiveness@cerra.org** to make arrangements to drop off your information.

Form **W-9**
(Rev. March 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Go to *www.irs.gov/FormW9* for instructions and the latest information.

Give form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

Before you begin. For guidance related to the purpose of Form W-9, see *Purpose of Form*, below.

Print or type. See ***Specific Instructions*** on page 3.

1 Name of entity/individual. An entry is required. (For a sole proprietor or disregarded entity, enter the owner's name on line 1, and enter the business/disregarded entity's name on line 2.)

2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above.

3a Check the appropriate box for federal tax classification of the entity/individual whose name is entered on line 1. Check only **one** of the following seven boxes.

☐ Individual/sole proprietor ☐ C corporation ☐ S corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate

☐ LLC. Enter the tax classification (C = C corporation, S = S corporation, P = Partnership) . . . . .

Note: Check the "LLC" box above and, in the entry space, enter the appropriate code (C, S, or P) for the tax classification of the LLC, unless it is a disregarded entity. A disregarded entity should instead check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.

☐ Other (see instructions)

3b If on line 3a you checked "Partnership" or "Trust/estate," or checked "LLC" and entered "P" as its tax classification, and you are providing this form to a partnership, trust, or estate in which you have an ownership interest, check this box if you have any foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries. See instructions . . . . . ☐

4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):

Exempt payee code (if any)

Exemption from Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) reporting code (if any)

(Applies to accounts maintained outside the United States.)

5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.). See instructions.

Requester's name and address (optional)

6 City, state, and ZIP code

7 List account number(s) here (optional)

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. See also *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number

☐☐☐ – ☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐

or

Employer identification number

☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and, generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here **Signature of U.S. person** **Date**

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to *www.irs.gov/FormW9*.

What's New

Line 3a has been modified to clarify how a disregarded entity completes this line. An LLC that is a disregarded entity should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Otherwise, it should check the "LLC" box and enter its appropriate tax classification.

New line 3b has been added to this form. A flow-through entity is required to complete this line to indicate that it has direct or indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries when it provides the Form W-9 to another flow-through entity in which it has an ownership interest. This change is intended to provide a flow-through entity with information regarding the status of its indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries, so that it can satisfy any applicable reporting requirements. For example, a partnership that has any indirect foreign partners may be required to complete Schedules K-2 and K-3. See the Partnership Instructions for Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065).

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS is giving you this form because they

must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN), which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid).
- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds).
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds).
- Form 1099-NEC (nonemployee compensation).
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers).
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions).
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third-party network transactions).
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), and 1098-T (tuition).
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt).
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property).

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

Caution: If you don't return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See *What is backup withholding*, later.

By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued);

2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding; or

3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee; and

4. Certify to your non-foreign status for purposes of withholding under chapter 3 or 4 of the Code (if applicable); and

5. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting is correct. See *What Is FATCA Reporting*, later, for further information.

Note: If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States;
- An estate (other than a foreign estate); or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

Establishing U.S. status for purposes of chapter 3 and chapter 4 withholding. Payments made to foreign persons, including certain distributions, allocations of income, or transfers of sales proceeds, may be subject to withholding under chapter 3 or chapter 4 of the Code (sections 1441–1474). Under those rules, if a Form W-9 or other certification of non-foreign status has not been received, a withholding agent, transferee, or partnership (payor) generally applies presumption rules that may require the payor to withhold applicable tax from the recipient, owner, transferor, or partner (payee). See Pub. 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities.

The following persons must provide Form W-9 to the payor for purposes of establishing its non-foreign status.

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the disregarded entity.
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the grantor trust.
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

See Pub. 515 for more information on providing a Form W-9 or a certification of non-foreign status to avoid withholding.

Foreign person. If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person (under Regulations section 1.1441-1(b)(2)(iv) or other applicable section for chapter 3 or 4 purposes), do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Pub. 515). If you are a qualified foreign pension fund under Regulations section 1.897(l)-1(d), or a partnership that is wholly owned by qualified foreign pension funds, that is treated as a non-foreign person for purposes of section 1445 withholding, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use Form W-8EXP (or other certification of non-foreign status).

Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien. Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a saving clause. Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items.

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.

2. The treaty article addressing the income.

3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.

4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.

5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

Example. Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if their stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first Protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on their scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

Backup Withholding

What is backup withholding? Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 24% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include, but are not limited to, interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third-party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester;

2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the instructions for Part II for details);

3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN;

4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only); or

5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding, as described in item 4 under "*By signing the filled-out form*" above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code*, later, and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

See also *Establishing U.S. status for purposes of chapter 3 and chapter 4 withholding*, earlier.

What Is FATCA Reporting?

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all U.S. account holders that are specified U.S. persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code*, later, and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you are no longer tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account, for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

Penalties

Failure to furnish TIN. If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of $50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding. If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a $500 penalty.

Criminal penalty for falsifying information. Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

Misuse of TINs. If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Specific Instructions

Line 1

You must enter one of the following on this line; **do not** leave this line blank. The name should match the name on your tax return.

If this Form W-9 is for a joint account (other than an account maintained by a foreign financial institution (FFI)), list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of Form W-9. If you are providing Form W-9 to an FFI to document a joint account, each holder of the account that is a U.S. person must provide a Form W-9.

• **Individual.** Generally, enter the name shown on your tax return. If you have changed your last name without informing the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the name change, enter your first name, the last name as shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

Note for ITIN applicant: Enter your individual name as it was entered on your Form W-7 application, line 1a. This should also be the same as the name you entered on the Form 1040 you filed with your application.

• **Sole proprietor.** Enter your individual name as shown on your Form 1040 on line 1. Enter your business, trade, or "doing business as" (DBA) name on line 2.

• **Partnership, C corporation, S corporation, or LLC, other than a disregarded entity.** Enter the entity's name as shown on the entity's tax return on line 1 and any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

• **Other entities.** Enter your name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on line 1. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. Enter any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

• **Disregarded entity.** In general, a business entity that has a single owner, including an LLC, and is not a corporation, is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner (a disregarded entity). See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2). A disregarded entity should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Enter the owner's name on line 1. The name of the owner entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on line 2. If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

Line 2

If you have a business name, trade name, DBA name, or disregarded entity name, enter it on line 2.

Line 3a

Check the appropriate box on line 3a for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one box on line 3a.

IF the entity/individual on line 1 is a(n) . . .	THEN check the box for . . .
• Corporation	Corporation.
• Individual or • Sole proprietorship	Individual/sole proprietor.
• LLC classified as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes or • LLC that has filed Form 8832 or 2553 electing to be taxed as a corporation	Limited liability company and enter the appropriate tax classification: P = Partnership, C = C corporation, or S = S corporation.
• Partnership	Partnership.
• Trust/estate	Trust/estate.

Line 3b

Check this box if you are a partnership (including an LLC classified as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes), trust, or estate that has any foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries, and you are providing this form to a partnership, trust, or estate, in which you have an ownership interest. You must check the box on line 3b if you receive a Form W-8 (or documentary evidence) from any partner, owner, or beneficiary establishing foreign status or if you receive a Form W-9 from any partner, owner, or beneficiary that has checked the box on line 3b.

Note: A partnership that provides a Form W-9 and checks box 3b may be required to complete Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065). For more information, see the Partnership Instructions for Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065).

If you are required to complete line 3b but fail to do so, you may not receive the information necessary to file a correct information return with the IRS or furnish a correct payee statement to your partners or beneficiaries. See, for example, sections 6698, 6722, and 6724 for penalties that may apply.

Line 4 Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the appropriate space on line 4 any code(s) that may apply to you.

Exempt payee code.

• Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding.

• Except as provided below, corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, including interest and dividends.

• Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third-party network transactions.

• Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding with respect to attorneys' fees or gross proceeds paid to attorneys, and corporations that provide medical or health care services are not exempt with respect to payments reportable on Form 1099-MISC.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding. Enter the appropriate code in the space on line 4.

1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2).

2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

3—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or territory, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities.

4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities.

5—A corporation.

6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or territory.

7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

8—A real estate investment trust.

9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a).

11—A financial institution as defined under section 581.

12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian.

13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947.

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
• Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7.
• Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
• Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4.
• Payments over $600 required to be reported and direct sales over $5,000[1]	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5.[2]
• Payments made in settlement of payment card or third-party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4.

[1] See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Information, and its instructions.

[2] However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney reportable under section 6045(f), and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

Exemption from FATCA reporting code. The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements. A requester may indicate that a code is not required by providing you with a Form W-9 with "Not Applicable" (or any similar indication) entered on the line for a FATCA exemption code.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37).

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or territory, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities.

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i).

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i).

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state.

G—A real estate investment trust.

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a).

J—A bank as defined in section 581.

K—A broker.

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1).

M—A tax-exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan.

Note: You may wish to consult with the financial institution requesting this form to determine whether the FATCA code and/or exempt payee code should be completed.

Line 5

Enter your address (number, street, and apartment or suite number). This is where the requester of this Form W-9 will mail your information returns. If this address differs from the one the requester already has on file, enter "NEW" at the top. If a new address is provided, there is still a chance the old address will be used until the payor changes your address in their records.

Line 6

Enter your city, state, and ZIP code.

Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. If you are a resident alien and you do not have, and are not eligible to get, an SSN, your TIN is your IRS ITIN. Enter it in the entry space for the Social security number. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

Note: See *What Name and Number To Give the Requester*, later, for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

How to get a TIN. If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local SSA office or get this form online at *www.SSA.gov*. You may also get this form by calling 800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at *www.irs.gov/EIN*. Go to *www.irs.gov/Forms* to view, download, or print Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4. Or, you can go to *www.irs.gov/OrderForms* to place an order and have Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4 mailed to you within 15 business days.

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and enter "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, you will generally have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

Note: Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon. See also *Establishing U.S. status for purposes of chapter 3 and chapter 4 withholding*, earlier, for when you may instead be subject to withholding under chapter 3 or 4 of the Code.

Caution: A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if item 1, 4, or 5 below indicates otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on line 1 must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code*, earlier.

Signature requirements. Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983. You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

3. Real estate transactions. You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

4. Other payments. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third-party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), ABLE accounts (under section 529A), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account[1]
3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)	Each holder of the account
4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor[2]
5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee[1]
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner[1]
6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner[3]
7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))**	The grantor*
8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity[4]
10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
12. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
13. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee
14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
15. Grantor trust filing Form 1041 or under the Optional Filing Method 2, requiring Form 1099 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))**	The trust

[1] List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

[2] Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

[3] You must show your individual name on line 1, and enter your business or DBA name, if any, on line 2. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

[4] List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.)

* **Note:** The grantor must also provide a Form W-9 to the trustee of the trust.

** For more information on optional filing methods for grantor trusts, see the Instructions for Form 1041.

Note: If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Secure Your Tax Records From Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information, such as your name, SSN, or other identifying information, without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax return preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity, or a questionable credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Pub. 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a systemic problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 800-829-4059.

Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes. Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to *phishing@irs.gov*. You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at *spam@uce.gov* or report them at *www.ftc.gov/complaint*. You can contact the FTC at *www.ftc.gov/idtheft* or 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338). If you have been the victim of identity theft, see *www.IdentityTheft.gov* and Pub. 5027.

Go to *www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft* to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and territories for use in administering their laws. The information may also be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payors must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividends, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payor. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.