

Colorado Asset Growth Project

A Project of the Colorado Community Action Association

VITA Site Direct Assistance

As part of the Colorado Asset Growth Project, there is direct assistance available to rural VITA sites of Colorado.

We appreciate you taking the time to review the information on this page before applying for assistance.

The Colorado Asset Growth Project invites you to apply for financial assistance; primarily for expanding the use of your Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site. We would really like to increase site use by low-income clients eligible for Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits.

Assistance areas identified that may help increase EITC filings at your VITA site are:

- Shredders
- Flash Drives
- Locking Cabinets
- Paper and Supplies
- Mileage for Volunteers
- Volunteer Recognition

You are not required to request monies for all these items or only for these items. Although funding is limited, we will be glad to work with you on your individual site needs as we are able. Even if our Project funding can not meet all your needs, maybe we can help find a referral source for your requests.

In accepting this funding assistance, we would also like you to provide a level of “Financial Education” for your clients. To quickly learn more about financial education, you may visit our web page at:

<http://www.coloradoruralassetgrowth.org/finance%20ed.html>

We see your VITA sites participation in some form of Financial Education as an important factor in the awarding of Assistance Funds! Links to Financial Education Resources may be found at:

<http://www.coloradoruralassetgrowth.org/finance%20ed%20resources.html>

Building wealth requires having the right information, planning and making good choices. Ideally, every VITA site could have Financial Personal Educator on site. Such a person could review with Earned Income Tax Credit filers, or other site participants their current understanding of wealth development and make related recommendations as to their use of their EITC refund. This model is being used successfully in many sites. Many banks have their own financial education programs, and are very willing to collaborate with VITA sites as to providing information and services. An account representative, or financial planner can often be recruited from a local financial institution. It is an advantage to both the client and a bank, to have someone present that can open "instant" bank accounts and arrange for the direct deposit of EITC refunds.

Since the funding available is “pass through grant money”, we are required to ask for a formal application process and for a follow-up report. We are attempting to keep it as simple as possible and expect the depth of your application to be appropriate for the amount of funding you are requesting.