

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
2026 Tax Season Annual Report**

Whatcom County

April 28, 2026

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service in Whatcom County just completed another successful year of providing free tax preparation services to the citizens of Whatcom County. As can be seen in the attached summary we prepared over 1,100 tax returns and helped many others by answering tax questions. This is an increase of 5% compared to the previous year. Although these results are far below pre-COVID levels, the results are encouraging. In Washington, AARP Tax-Aide prepared over 41,000 returns and nationwide the number was over 1.2 million with close to \$1.4 billion in refunds.

In Whatcom County we processed over \$1.3 million in refunds and estimate that we saved our clients approximately \$300,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. We believe that for many of our clients, the fees they would have to pay to have their returns prepared would be a significant portion of their monthly budgets. Our 32 highly motivated volunteers worked diligently for ten weeks and logged close to 2,500 hours of support in addition to countless hours of training and preparation.

We could not provide these services without the ongoing support of the Whatcom community including our site hosts, The First Congregational Church of Bellingham and the Bellingham Senior Activity Center who provide us with space and support we need to provide our services and welcome us with open arms.

Additionally, we would like to thank the following for helping us to get the word out about our services and sending clients our way.

The Bellingham Public Library

The Whatcom Asset Building Coalition

The Cascadia Daily News

The Lynden Tribune

KGMI Radio

Please see the attached summary of our accomplishments.

Carlton J. Nathon

District Coordinator

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

Whatcom County

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
Tax-Aide Whatcom County
Annual Statistics**

Tax Year	Total Returns	WFTC Returns	Single	Married	HOH	Total Refunds \$	AVG Reund f \$	Tot. EIC \$	AVG EIC \$	# EIC	AVG AGI \$	CTC\$	#CTC	Est. Prep Cost \$
2025														
Church	895	88	588	218	59	1,014,019	1,485	140,236	1,630	86	43,095	211,161	75	
Sr. Center	270	3	189	76	5	262,229	1,171	1,253	250	5	41,832	4,700	5	
Total Returns	1,165	91	777	294	64	1,276,248	1,412	141,489	1,555	91	42,802	215,861	80	300,000
Others helped	182													
2024														
Church	848	87	580	213	54	834,066	984	167,480	1,971	85	39,618	165,491	89	
Sr. Center	263	5	185	74	4	183,629	698	943	235	4	40,167	7,619	8	
Total Returns	1,111	92	765	287	58	1,017,695	916	168,423	1,892	89	39,747	173,110	97	270,000
Others helped	242													
2023														
Church	806	##	515	194	55	796,112	1,039	166,948	1,545	108	35,274	158,857	94	
Sr. Center	265	6	193	68	4	197,365	742	2,738	547	5	35,632	5,001	6	
Total Returns	1,071	##	708	262	59	993,477	962	169,686	1,501	113	35,366	163,858	100	240,000
Others helped	221													
2022														
Church	578	79	396	153	13	517,131	889	86,140	1,104	78	33,464	113,441	64	
Sr. Center	292	13	218	68	8	197,932	671	5,278	406	13	31,733	4,000	8	
Total Returns	870	92	614	221	21	715,063	1,559	91,418	1,510	91	65,197	117,441	72	183,000
Others helped	167													
2018														
Church	1,407		933	359	##	1,288,277	1,338	367,938	1,460	252	28,747	487,793	198	
Sr. Center	280		188	83	9	83,698	543	13,690	1,245	11	28,652	18,163	9	
Total Returns	1,687	#	####	442	##	1,371,975	1,881	381,628	2,705	263	57,399	505,956	207	330,000
Others helped	193													

Legend

WFTC	Washington Working Family Tax Credit
EIC	Earned Income Credit
AGI	Adjusted Gross Income
CTC	Child Tax Credit

Est. Prep cost	Estimated cost for professional preparation.
HOH	Head of Household
Others helped	People helped, no return completed

