

Otsego County Office for the Aging (OFA) is partnering with Hartwick College's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help ensure low-income seniors can benefit from the New York State inflation refund checks.

The 2025-2026 New York State budget included one-time inflation refund checks, to be mailed to New York residents beginning the end of September 2025. The Department of Taxation and Finance will determine eligibility for the refund check based on the person's income that was reported in their 2023 income tax return. However, many low-income older adults aren't required to file taxes because their income is so low. These individuals will therefore be excluded from receiving the inflation refund check unless they file a 2023 tax return before October 15th.

To help older adults receive these much-needed refund checks, Hartwick College VITA program will be offering free tax preparation for those who still need to file their 2023 tax return.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact Otsego County Office for the Aging at 607-547-4232 as soon as possible, but before September 30th. ➡