

# Tax Year 2011 Partners & Programs Self-Employment Tax Initiative

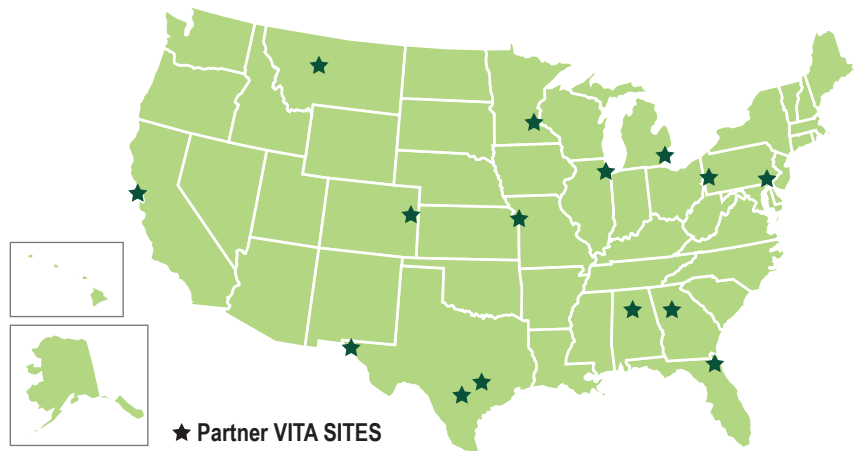
## Overview

For the 2011 tax year, the **Self-Employment Tax Initiative (SETI)** has partnered with a total of **18 community organizations** providing small business tax preparation services to low-income, self-employed individuals across the United States. All SETI sites provide low-cost or free small business tax assistance and **collect data** about the self-employed filers they serve; many also provide other business development products and services. During the 2011 tax year and 2012 tax season, SETI partners will include:

- NCTC, the IRS and 16 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites participating in the **Schedule C VITA Pilot**
- **Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)**
- **Maryland CASH Campaign (MD CASH)**

## The Schedule C VITA Pilot

The Schedule C VITA Pilot will continue for a second year to demonstrate the viability of expanding the scope of existing VITA programs to include Schedule C preparation in the offerings provided for income-eligible clients nationwide. In 2010, the National Community Tax Coalition, SETI, the IRS and 12 local VITA practitioners partnered to design this pilot initiative offering free Schedule C tax assistance to self-employed filers – in addition to their services for wage-earning clients. You can read about outcomes from this pilot in the [Schedule C VITA Pilot Final Report \(2011\)](#). Based on the results of the



Partner VITA Site	Location
Real Sense Prosperity Campaign	Jacksonville, FL
El Paso Affordable Housing Credit Union Service Organization	El Paso, TX
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation	Oakland, CA
Rural Dynamics, Inc.	Great Falls, MT
Just Harvest Education Fund	Pittsburgh, PA
Foundation Communities	Austin, TX
KC CASH Coalition, Inc.	Kansas City, MO
Accounting Aid Society	Detroit, MI
Center for Economic Progress	Chicago, IL
AccountAbility Minnesota	St. Paul, MN
St. Mary's University	San Antonio, TX
Campaign for Working Families	Philadelphia, PA
United Way of Central Alabama	Birmingham, AL
Atlanta Prosperity Campaign	Atlanta, GA
Tax Aid	San Francisco, CA
Colorado East Community Action Agency	Stratton, CO

Tax Year 2010 Schedule C VITA Pilot, the IRS has approved the continuation and limited expansion – to include 16 sites instead of 12 – of the pilot for the 2012 tax season.

## Innovations in Savings, Credit and Small Business Development

### Building a Regional Microenterprise & Asset-Building Network with MD CASH

One key approach for scaling up of the SETI strategy involves the creation of a systemically sound network among local, state and regional microenterprise and asset-building partners. This year, with support from Capital One Financial, SETI has partnered with the Maryland CASH Campaign to build on the emerging “tax prep plus” model and bridge gaps between the microenterprise and asset-building service providers in the Metro DC Region, which includes the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. The aim of this coordination is to construct a regional network where there is no wrong door for low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs seeking access to high quality tax prep plus services. Improving these connections across the region will allow microenterprise and asset-building service providers to deliver free and low-cost, high-quality tax assistance, asset-building products and services, business development services and microenterprise lending services to entrepreneurs in a streamlined, impactful, measurable and intentional way.

The project aims to:

1. Strengthen the connections among microenterprise and asset-building organizations in the region through outreach, network-building and convening.
2. Conduct focus groups at three MD CASH Campaign VITA sites on the use of safe and secure savings, checking and credit building products that could be made available to self-employed filers at VITA sites.
3. Conduct on-going monitoring and evaluation designed to provide real-time feedback for program design, outcome measurement, and documentation of best practices.

## Advancing Opportunities for San Francisco’s Self-Employed Businesses and Under-Employed Workers with MEDA

Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) operates four Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in San Francisco that offer free tax assistance – including self-employment tax assistance – in addition to offering workshops and one-on-one counseling on homeownership, foreclosure, financial education, workforce development and business development. This year, SETI and MEDA will work together to bundle essential financial education, financial products, business development and workforce development services through the gateway of free tax preparation. We will collect research on best practices in tax preparation and integrated service delivery to inform the design of an integrated service delivery pilot to be launched with the 2012 tax season at MEDA, and this integrated service delivery approach will be shared with all VITA sites in San Francisco. As part of this partnership, SETI will also create and implement an impact evaluation plan that identifies key outcome measures and indicators of success for this integrated service delivery approach.

## About CFED

CFED expands economic opportunity by helping Americans start and grow businesses, go to college, own a home and save for their children’s and own economic futures. We identify promising ideas, test and refine them in communities to find out what works, craft policies and products to help good ideas reach scale, and develop partnerships to promote lasting change. We bring together community practice, public policy and private markets in new and effective ways to achieve greater economic impact.

For more information about SETI, our partners and our programs during the 2011 tax year, visit us online at <http://cfed.org/programs/seti/> or contact us at [seti@cfed.org](mailto:seti@cfed.org).

SETI gratefully acknowledges the support of our funders: Capital One, Citi, Bank of America, Sam’s Club, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Walmart Foundation, Morgan Stanley, the Northwest Area Foundation and Charles Schwab Bank.