Be on Guard against Identity Theft and Tax Scams

Identity theft, tax refund fraud, and similar tax scams continue to target taxpayers in Vermont. Taxpayers have reported emails and phone calls from people posing as employees of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Vermont Department of Taxes. Some scammers are clever enough to pose as their victims' tax preparers to obtain private information. A common ploy scammers use is to falsely claim taxes are owed and demand immediate payment using threats and bullying. Scammers often target the elderly using these tactics.

How to protect yourself from becoming a victim

- Never give out personal information unless you are sure of the identity of the person requesting it.
- If you suspect that an email or phone call is fraudulent, do not engage in conversation. Contact the Department at (802) 828-2865 or 1-866-828-2865 (toll-free) to verify an email or phone call.

How to report fraud

- Report suspected fraud immediately to the Vermont Department of Taxes and the IRS. Information about how to report fraud is available on the Department website at tax.vermont.gov/identity-theft.
- Suspected fraud also should be reported to the Vermont Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program at 1-800-649-2424 (toll-free).

Online Options for Filers at <u>myVTax.vermont.gov</u> NO LOGIN REQUIRED

You can do more online through myVTax.

- File extensions for Personal Income Tax
- File Renter Credit Claim (Form RCC-146)
- Landlords can file the Landlord Certificate (Form LRC-140) and Statement of Rent for Mobile Home Park Lot Rent, Co-ops, and Land Trusts (Form LRC-147)
- File the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit (Form HS-122/Schedule HI-144)
- Set up third party access for your tax preparer
- Respond to correspondence
- Access "Check the Status of your Return" service to view information on your return and refund status
- Check your estimated payments and carryforwards
- Make your Personal Income Tax payments electronically for no charge via ACH Debit
- File and pay Property Transfer Tax
- Enter into a payment plan

Please note: To e-file your IN-111 and associated schedules, you must use a commercial software vendor. If you are eligible, you may file for free using one of the software vendors offering free services to Vermonters. For eligibility and to see the offers, visit <u>tax.vermont.gov/free-file</u>.

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FORM RCC-146 Renter Credit Claim

General Instructions

The Vermont legislature made substantial changes to the Renter Credit program in Act 160 of 2020. These changes impact claims made beginning with the 2022 income tax filing season and thereafter. The Renter Credit Program refunds eligible renters a portion of their rent paid based on HUD fair market rent guidelines.

Eligibility for Renter Credit: You must meet all the following eligibility requirements:

- 1. You were domiciled in Vermont for the entire calendar year 2023
- 2. You were not claimed in 2023 as a dependent of another taxpayer
- 3. You rented in Vermont for at least 6 months in 2023

You are no longer required to obtain a landlord certificate from your landlord in order to apply for a Renter Credit. However, your landlord is required to file a certificate with the Department in order for your application to be honored. You will need to know the SPAN for the unit you are filing on. If you didn't file a federal income tax return in 2023, please use the instructions below. Only include items of income that would be included on the federal return if you filed one. For more information on what's included on the federal return, see the federal income tax forms and instructions at www.irs.gov.

Missing Information or Incomplete Filing: Claims that are incomplete or are missing key information will be considered UNFILED.

Deceased Renter: A claim cannot be filed on behalf of a deceased person. The right to file a Renter Credit Claim is personal to the claimant and does not survive the claimant's death, regardless if they had rented six months or more.

Lot Rent: Do NOT file a renter credit if the rent you pay is for lot rent for your mobile home. See instructions for Form HS-122, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim.

E-file your Renter Credit Claim for quicker processing at myVTax.vermont.gov.

Due Date: Your application must be filed no later than the Oct. 15 filing deadline. Returns received after this date cannot be accepted.

Injured Spouse Claims: To make an "injured spouse" claim, send the following information prior to filing your claim:

- 1. Copy of federal Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation (if you filed one with the IRS)
- 2. Your signed letter of request
- 3. A copy of your current lease

Mail to: ATTN: Injured Spouse Unit, Vermont Department of Taxes, PO Box 1645, Montpelier, VT 05601-1645. The Department will notify you if the renter credit is taken to pay a bill. You have 30 days from the date on the notice to submit the injured spouse claim to the Department.

2023 Partial Credit Income Limits by County

				FAMILY SIZE					
COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
ADDISON	\$34,700	\$39,650	\$44,600	\$49,550	\$53,550	\$57,500	\$61,450	\$65,450	
BENNINGTON	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
CALEDONIA	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
CHITTENDEN	\$39,800	\$45,450	\$51,150	\$56,800	\$61,350	\$65,900	\$70,450	\$75,000	
ESSEX	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
FRANKLIN	\$32,930	\$37,630	\$42,350	\$47,020	\$50,800	\$54,580	\$58,320	\$62,100	
GRAND ISLE	\$32,930	\$37,630	\$42,350	\$47,020	\$50,800	\$54,580	\$58,320	\$62,100	
LAMOILLE	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
ORANGE	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
ORLEANS	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
RUTLAND	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
WASHINGTON	\$33,900	\$38,750	\$43,600	\$48,400	\$52,300	\$56,150	\$60,050	\$63,900	
WINDHAM	\$31,750	\$36,300	\$40,850	\$45,350	\$49,000	\$52,650	\$56,250	\$59,900	
WINDSOR	\$32,700	\$37,350	\$42,000	\$46,650	\$50,400	\$54,150	\$57,850	\$61,600	

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COUNTY	1	2	3	FAMILY SIZE 4	5	6	7	8
ADDISON	\$20,850	\$23,800	\$26,800	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
BENNINGTON	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
CALEDONIA	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
CHITTENDEN	\$23,900	\$27,300	\$30,700	\$34,100	\$36,850	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
ESSEX	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
FRANKLIN	\$19,760	\$22,600	\$25,640	\$30,340	\$35,280	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
GRAND ISLE	\$19,760	\$22,600	\$25,640	\$30,340	\$35,280	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
LAMOILLE	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
ORANGE	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
ORLEANS	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
RUTLAND	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
WASHINGTON	\$20,350	\$23,250	\$26,150	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
WINDHAM	\$19,050	\$21,800	\$24,860	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560
WINDSOR	\$19,600	\$22,400	\$25,200	\$30,000	\$35,140	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560

Line-by-Line Instructions

Claimant Information Enter your name, your spouse/civil union partner's name if filing a joint return, your Social Security Number(s), and your date of birth.

Vermont School District Code If you do not know your Vermont School District Code for your rental, you can look it up in the Vermont income tax booklet table. Select the three-digit school district code for the town where you lived on Dec. 31, 2023, or the last rental unit for the year.

Mailing Address Use the address where you receive mail from the United States Post Office. If the mailing address on your return is incorrect and the Department requires additional information, this will delay the processing of your return and your credit until we receive a valid mailing address. If you move after you submit your renter credit claim, please change your address with the Department as soon as possible. See our website to learn how to change your mailing address.

Physical Address Enter your physical rental unit as of Dec. 31, 2023 or the last rental place you occupied. Your physical residence is where you lived and may be different from your mailing address.

County Enter the county of the last rental unit you lived in during 2023.

Federal Filing Status Enter the corresponding letter of the filing status used on your 2023 federal income tax return. If you are not required to file a federal income tax return, leave the box blank.

Line 1 Enter the SPAN for the place you rented on Dec. 31, 2023 or the last place you rented if you were not renting on Dec. 31, 2023. If you do not know the number, you can look it up on our website at tax.vermont.gov/span-finder or your landlord can provide it.

Lines 2 through 6 ALL questions must be answered or the claim cannot be processed. Check the appropriate "Yes" or "No" box for Lines 2 through 4 to determine your eligibility. Check the appropriate "Yes" or "No" box for Lines 5 and 6.

Line 6a Indicate the total number of months your rent was subsidized.

Line 7 Indicate the total number of months you rented in 2023.

Enter the number of personal exemptions claimed on Form IN-111, Vermont Income Tax Return, Line 5d. If you did not or are not required to file Form IN-111, complete the Personal Exemptions Worksheet and enter the total on Line 8.

Line 9 Check the appropriate "Yes" or "No" box if you filed a federal Form 1040. If you did not file a federal Form 1040, please refer to each line for instruction for Lines 10 through 14.

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Line 10	If you filed a federal Form 1040: Enter the Total Income from federal Form 1040, Line 9.
	If you did not file a federal Form 1040: Enter the total amount of wages, salaries, and other compensation (generally reported on federal Form W-2, Box 1, issued by the payer) and the total pensions, annuities and IRA distributions you received (generally found on the federal Form 1099 issued by the payer). Include on this line alimony received; business income (but do not enter business losses); capital gains; other gains; any income from rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.; farm income; unemployment compensation; and any other income that would be included in federal total income if you filed a federal income tax return.
Line 11	If you filed a federal Form 1040: Seventy-five percent of nontaxable Social Security benefits from federa Form 1040, Line 6a minus Line 6b. Multiply result by 75% (0.75).
	If you did not file a federal Form 1040: Total all payments received under the federal Social Security Act, including regular social security benefits, social security disability benefits and supplemental security income (generally found on federal Form SSA-1099). Include the gross amount before Medicare is subtracted. Multiply the total by 75% (0.75) and enter on Line 11.
Line 12	If you filed a federal Form 1040: Tax-exempt interest - Report the amount of tax-exempt interest reported on your federal Form 1040, Line 2a.
	If you did not file a federal Form 1040: Enter all interest and ordinary dividends you received. These amounts car generally be found on the federal Form 1099 issued by the payer.
Line 13	If you filed a federal Form 1040: Loss add backs - Enter the amount of any negative amount (net loss) shown on federal Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR, Line 7, and federal Schedule 1, Lines 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8a. Enter the total of the amounts as a positive number. Loss would include business loss, capital loss, net operating losses including carryforward NOL, trust and estate loss, sale of business personal property loss and farm losses.
	If you did not file a federal Form 1040: See instructions regarding business losses for Line 10 total income above Leave this line blank.
Line 14	Add Lines 10 through 13. Enter total here.
Signature	Sign and date the claim. An unsigned claim is considered incomplete and UNFILED.
Disclosure A	uthorization If you wish to give the Department authorization to discuss your 2023 Renter Credit Claim with your tax preparer, check this box and include the preparer's name. This authorization will automatically end April 15, 2029.
Preparer	If you are a paid preparer, you must also sign the claim, enter your Social Security Number or PTIN and, if employed by a business, the FEIN of the business. If someone other than the filer(s) prepared the return without charging a fee then that preparer's signature is optional.

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VERMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT CODES

Homeowners: For Form IN-111, use the school district code where you owned a home and resided last Dec. 31. For Form HS-122, use the school district code where you own a home and reside on April 1 this year.

Renters: Use the school district code where you rented last Dec. 31, or the last date rented in 2022. Check with your local school officials if you are not sure which code to use. Enter the school district code on Form IN-111 (if you are required to file that form) and Form RCC-146.

Nonresidents: Enter 999 for the school district code on Form IN-111

VT	restaents. Enter 777 F
SCHOOL	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
001	ADDISON
002	ALBANY
003	ALBURGH
004	ANDOVER
005	ARLINGTON
006	ATHENS
255	AVERILL
256	AVERY'S GORE
007	BAKERSFIELD
008	BALTIMORE
009	BARNARD
010	BARNET
011	BARRE CITY
012	BARRE TOWN
013	BARTON
014	BELVIDERE
015	BENNINGTON
016	BENSON
017	BERKSHIRE
018	BERLIN
019	BETHEL
020	BLOOMFIELD
021	BOLTON
022	BRADFORD
023	BRAINTREE
024	BRANDON
025	BRATTLEBORO
026	BRIDGEWATER
027	BRIDPORT
028	BRIGHTON
029	BRISTOL
030	BROOKFIELD
031	BROOKLINE
032	BROWNINGTON
033	BRUNSWICK
252	BUEL'S GORE
034	BURKE BURLINGTON
036	CABOT
037	CALAIS
038	CALAIS
039	CANAAN
040	CASTLETON
040	CASTLETON
042	CHARLESTON
042	CHARLOTTE
044	CHELSEA
045	CHESTER
046	CHITTENDEN
047	CLARENDON
048	COLCHESTER
049	CONCORD
050	CORINTH
051	CORNWALL
052	COVENTRY
053	CRAFTSBURY
054	DANBY
055	DANVILLE
056	DERBY
057	DORSET
058	DOVER
059	DUMMERSTON
060	DUXBURY
061	EAST HAVEN
062	EAST MONTPELIER
063	EDEN

school d	listrict code on Form IN
VT SCHOOL CODE	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
064	ELMORE
065	ENOSBURG
066	CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
067	ESSEX TOWN
070	FAIR HAVEN
068	FAIRFAX
069	FAIRFIELD
071	FAIRLEE
072	FAYSTON
257	FERDINAND
073	FERRISBURGH
074	FLETCHER
075	FRANKLIN
076	GEORGIA
258	GLASTENBURY
077	GLOVER
078	GOSHEN
079	GRAFTON
080	GRANBY
081	GRAND ISLE
082	GRANVILLE
083	GREENSBORO
084	GROTON
085	GUILDHALL
086	GUILFORD
087	HALIFAX
880	HANCOCK
089	HARDWICK
090	HARTFORD
091	HARTLAND
092	HIGHGATE
093	HINESBURG
094	HOLLAND
	HUBBARDTON
095	HUNTINGTON
096	
097	HYDE PARK
098	IRA
099	IRASBURG
100	ISLE LA MOTTE
101	JAMAICA
102	JAY
103	JERICHO
253	JERICHO ID
104	JOHNSON
185	KILLINGTON
105	KIRBY
106	LANDGROVE
107	LEICESTER
108	LEMINGTON
259	LEWIS
109	LINCOLN
110	LONDONDERRY
111	LOWELL
112	LUDLOW
113	LUNENBURG
114	LYNDON
115	MAIDSTONE
116	MANCHESTER
117	MARLBORO
118	MARSHFIELD
119	MENDON MIDDLEBLIDY
120	MIDDLEBURY
121	MIDDLESEX
122	MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS
123	MILTON

124

VT SCHOOL	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
CODE	MONTOOMEDY
125 126	MONTGOMERY MONTPELIER
127	MORETOWN
128	MORGAN
129	MORRISTOWN
130	MOUNT HOLLY
131	MOUNT TABOR
135	NEW HAVEN
132	NEWARK
133	NEWBURY NEWFANE
134 136	NEWPORT CITY
137	NEWPORT TOWN
138	NORTH BENNINGTON ID
140	NORTH HERO
139	NORTHFIELD
141	NORTON
142	NORWICH
143	ORANGE
144	ORLEANS
145	ORWELL
146 147	PANTON PAWLET
148	PEACHAM
149	PERU
150	PITTSFIELD
151	PITTSFORD
152	PLAINFIELD
153	PLYMOUTH
154	POMFRET
155	POULTNEY
156	POWNAL
157	PROCTOR PUTNEY
158 159	RANDOLPH
160	READING
161	READSBORO
162	RICHFORD
163	RICHMOND
164	RIPTON
165	ROCHESTER
166	ROCKINGHAM
167	ROXBURY
168 169	ROYALTON
170	RUPERT RUTLAND CITY
171	RUTLAND TOWN
172	RYEGATE
173	SAINT ALBANS CITY
174	SAINT ALBANS TOWN
175	SAINT GEORGE
176	SAINT JOHNSBURY
177	SALISBURY
178	SANDGATE
179	SEARSBURG SHAFTSBURY
180 254	SHAFTSBURY ID
181	SHARON
182	SHEFFIELD
183	SHELBURNE
184	SHELDON
186	SHOREHAM
187	SHREWSBURY
260	SOMERSET
188	SOUTH BURLINGTON
189	SOUTH HERO

VT SCHOOL	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
CODE	
190	SPRINGFIELD
191	STAMFORD
192	STANNARD
193	STARKSBORO
194 195	STOCKBRIDGE
196	STOWE STRAFFORD
197	STRATTON
198	SUDBURY
199	SUNDERLAND
200	SUTTON
201	SWANTON
202	THETFORD
203	TINMOUTH
204	TOPSHAM
205	TOWNSHEND
206	TROY
207	TUNBRIDGE
208	UNDERHILL ID
209	UNDERHILL TOWN
210 211	VERGENNES
211	VERNON VERSHIRE
213	VICTORY
214	WAITSFIELD
215	WALDEN
216	WALLINGFORD
217	WALTHAM
218	WARDSBORO
261	WARNER'S GRANT
219	WARREN
262	WARREN'S GORE
220	WASHINGTON
221	WATERBURY
222	WATERFORD
223	WATERVILLE
224	WEATHERSFIELD
225	WELLS DIVED
226 227	WELLS RIVER WEST FAIRLEE
230	WEST HAVEN
234	WEST RUTLAND
235	WEST WINDSOR
228	WESTFIELD
229	WESTFORD
231	WESTMINSTER
232	WESTMORE
233	WESTON
236	WEYBRIDGE
237	WHEELOCK
238	WHITING
239	WHITINGHAM
240	WILLIGTON
241 242	WILLISTON
242	WILMINGTON
243	WINDHAM WINDSOR
245	WINHALL
245	WINOOSKI
247	WOLCOTT
248	WOODBURY
249	WOODFORD
250	WOODSTOCK
251	WORCESTER

2023 Form RCC-146 Instructions

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Taxpayer Assistance

Visit Our Website for Forms Not Included in This Booklet

We have provided the forms in this booklet that most Vermonters need to file their taxes. All forms are available at <u>tax.vermont.gov</u>. The following forms are not included in this booklet:

- IN-117 Vermont Credit for Income Tax Paid to Other State or Canadian Province
- IN-119 Vermont Tax Adjustments and Nonrefundable Credits
- IN-153 Vermont Capital Gains Exclusion
- IN-151 Application for Extension of Time to File Form IN-111. A Vermont extension is not required to be filed if a federal extension was filed **and** you are not required to submit a payment with your extension.

2023 Due Dates

Form #	Form Description	Initial Due Date	Final Date Accepted NOTE: Penalties, interest, and late filing fees may accrue after initial due date.
IN-111	2023 Vermont Income Tax Return	April 15	
IN-151	Application for Extension of Time to File Form IN-111 Vermont Income Tax Return	April 15	
RCC-146	2023 Renter Credit Claim	April 15	Oct. 15
HS-122	2024 Homestead Declaration	April 15	Oct. 15
HS-122/HI-144	2024 Property Tax Credit Claim	April 15	Oct. 15

Taxpayer Advocate

The Vermont Department of Taxes offers free, confidential service when a taxpayer encounters difficulty resolving tax issues. The Taxpayer Advocate may be able to help if:

- You are experiencing extreme economic hardship from the Department's action, or
- It is taking more than 180 days to resolve your tax issue, or
- You have not received a response or resolution to the problem by the date promised by the Vermont Department of Taxes.

The Taxpayer Advocate will review your situation, help you understand what needs to be done to resolve it, and keep you updated on the progress of your situation. Please note that the Taxpayer Advocate cannot override the provisions of the law or represent taxpayers at Department hearings.

To contact the Taxpayer Advocate: Mail: ATTN: Taxpayer Advocate

Telephone: (802) 828-6848 Vermont Department of Taxes

Fax: (802) 828-6982 133 State Street

Email: <u>tax.taxpayeradvocate@vermont.gov</u> Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

tax.vermont.gov

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