



UMBC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program: Providing Free Tax Preparation to our Community



Program Information

\$ The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is an IRS facilitated program that offers free tax preparation for low-income families in the community (87% from Baltimore County and Baltimore City)

\$ This program:

- Connects trained volunteer tax preparers with tax payers to maximize their tax refunds
- Provides practical experience for UMBC students preparing for work
- Educates student volunteers and clients on the tax return process and financial literacy
- Connects UMBC to the local community by providing a valuable service for those in need

\$ The Baltimore Cash Campaign provided volunteer training and oversight

Volunteers

UMBC Students Current/Past UMBC Employees Total Hours of Training Total Hours Volunteered

16 **4** **312** **802**



Who We Served

106

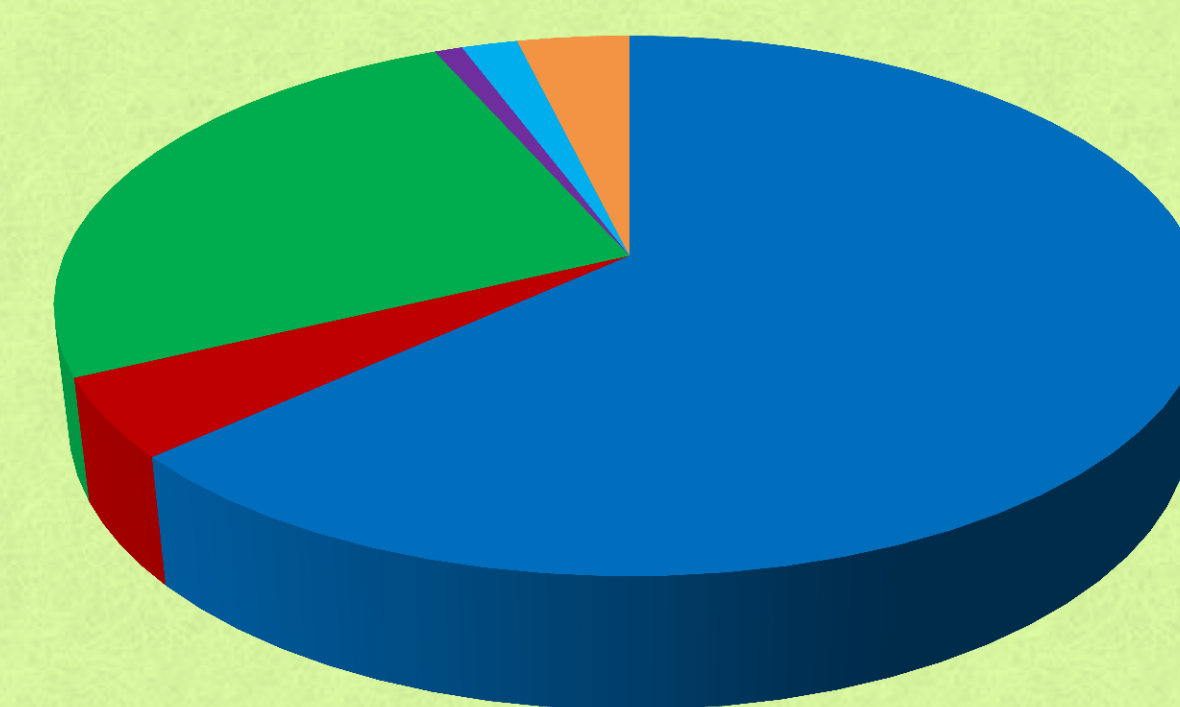
Total clients served

(filing status- 73 single, 20 Head of Household, 11 married filing jointly, and 2 married filing separately)

\$22,775

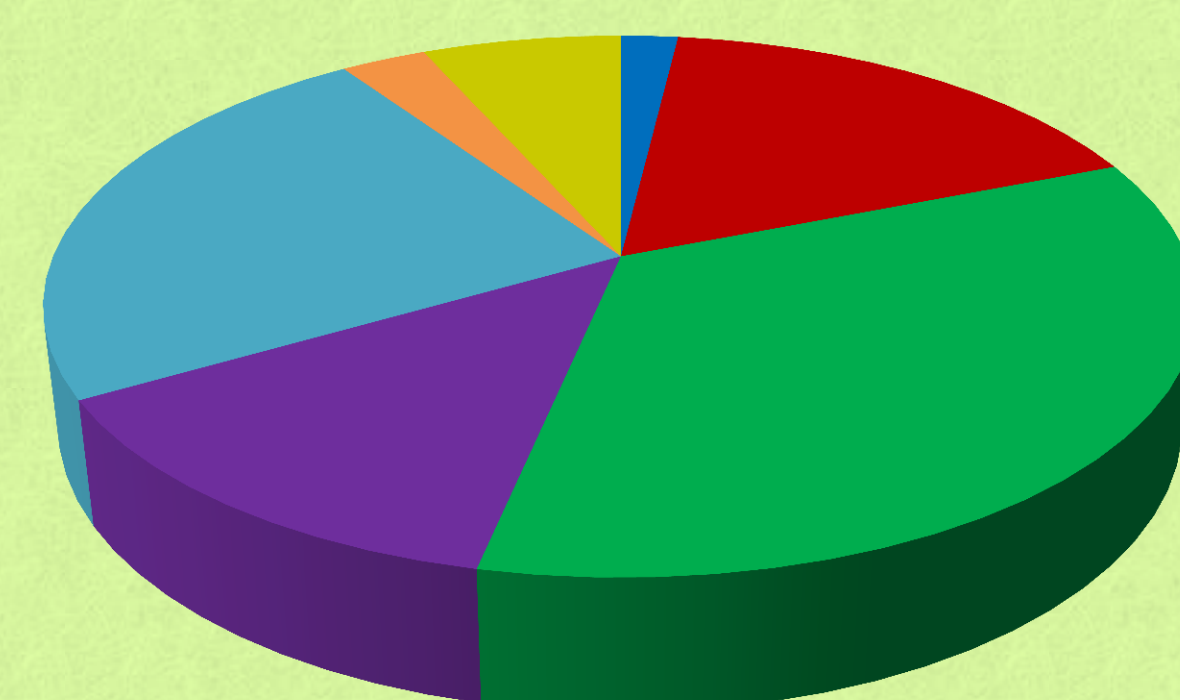
Average Adjusted Gross Income of clients

Race/Ethnicity

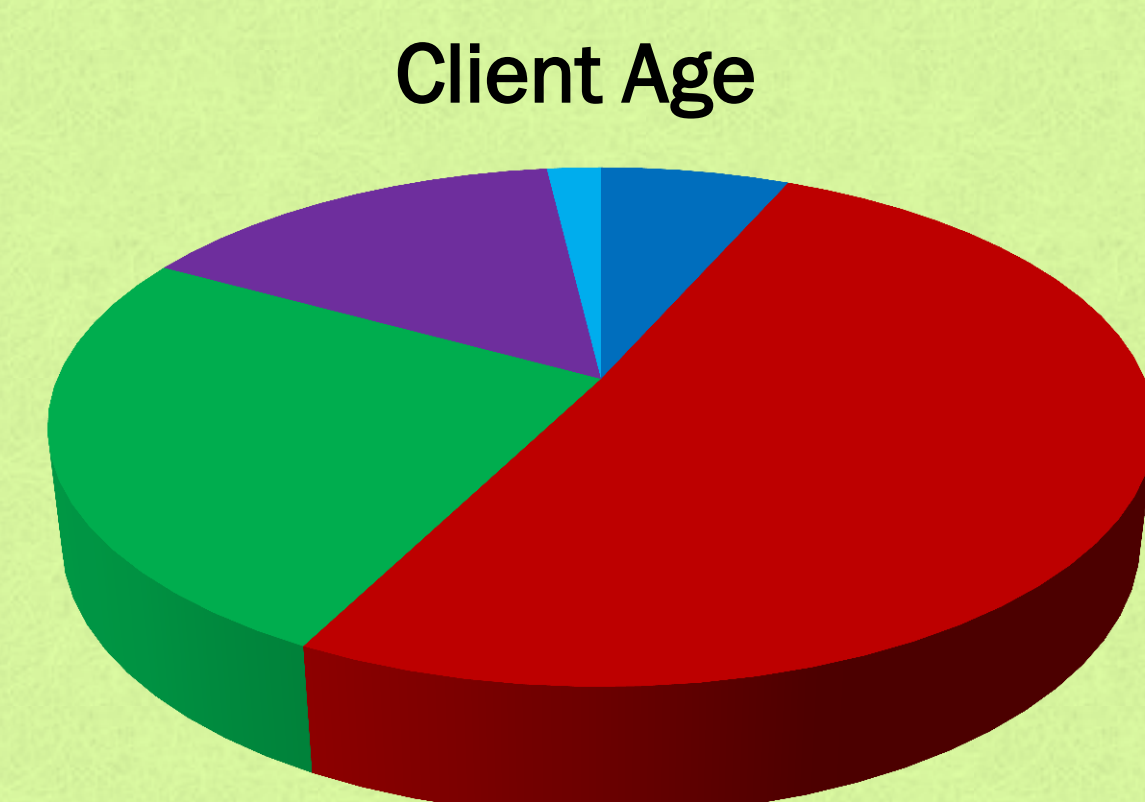


- African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Caucasian
- Latino/Hispanic
- Other
- Multiracial

Highest Education

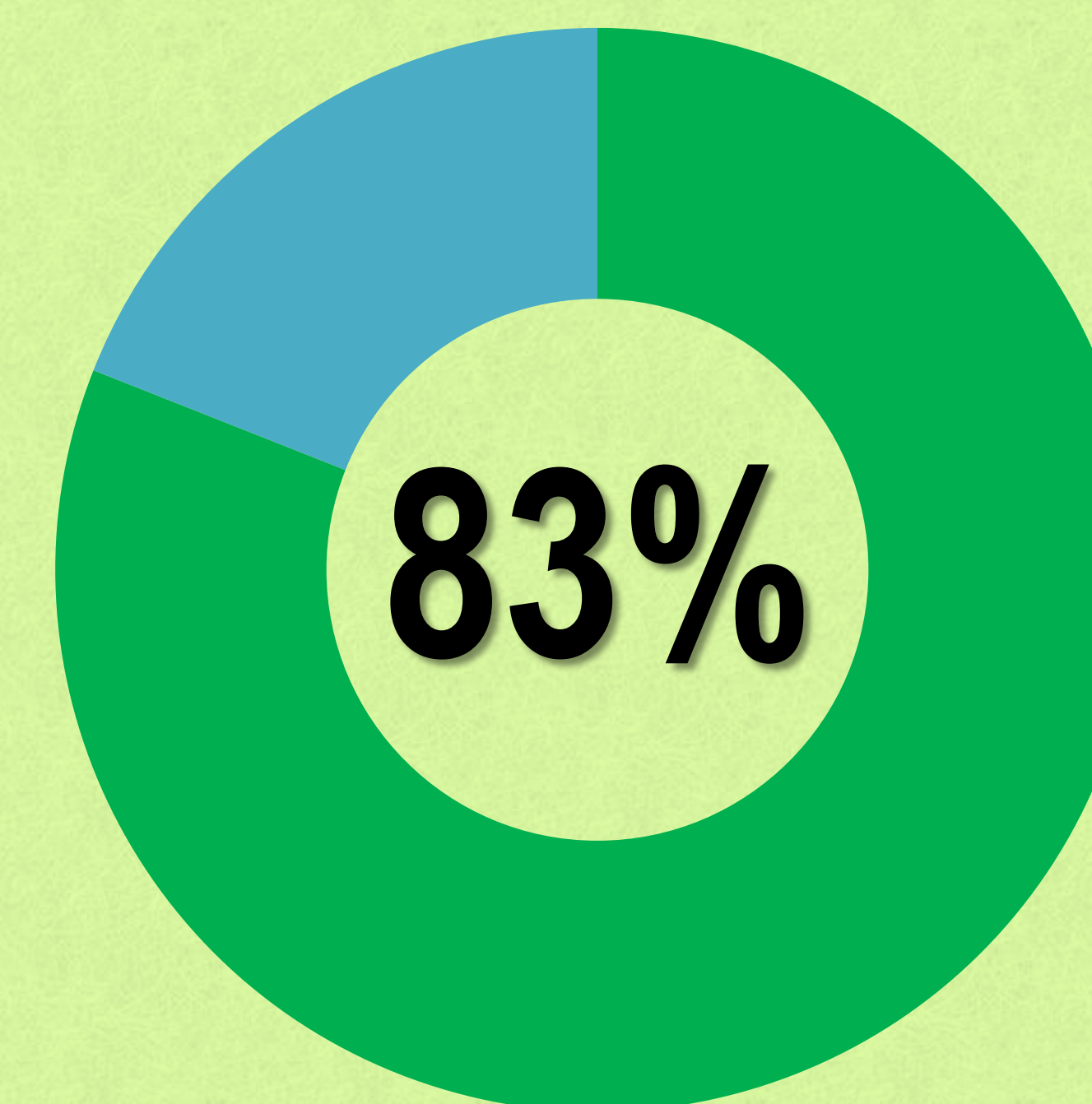


- Less than HS
- High School or GED
- Some College
- 2-Year Degree
- 4-Year Degree
- Some Graduate
- Graduate Degree

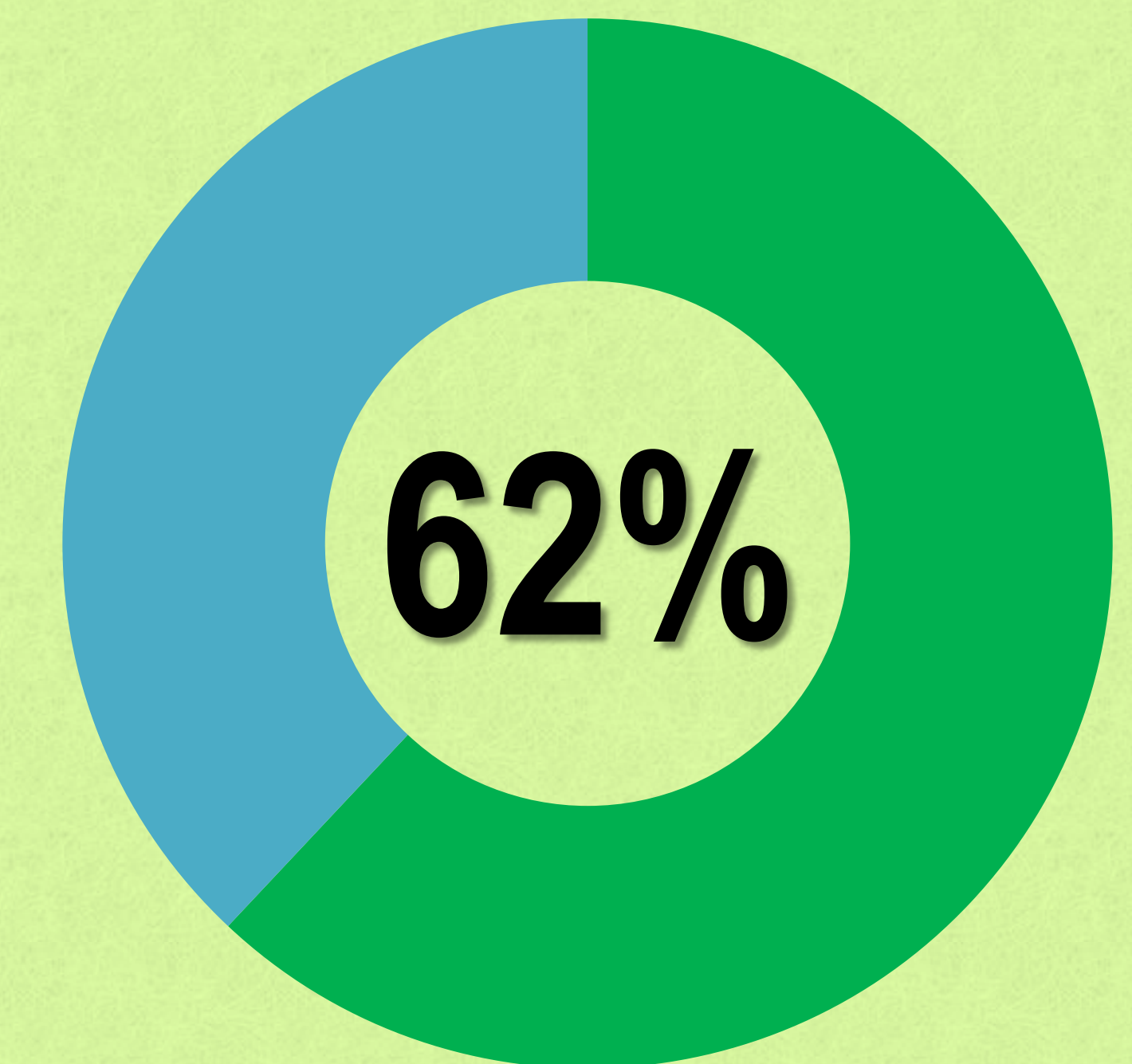


- Under 20
- 20-39
- 40-59
- 60-79
- 80 and Above

How Clients Benefitted from VITA Program



Clients who got a refund (\$125,959 in total refunds)



Clients who plan to use their refund to pay off debt, pay past due bills, or save/invest

\$748

Average Education Credit for those who were eligible (maximum of \$2,287)

\$1,402

Average Earned Income Credit for those who were eligible (maximum of \$6,242)

38%

of clients with dependents received a child care credit, child tax credit, or both

41%

of clients got one or more of the following credits: child care, child tax, Earned Income Credit, and education credit

UMBC Founding Stakeholders

- \$ Financial Literacy Team
- \$ Shriver Center
- \$ Career Center
- \$ Residential Life
- \$ Enrollment Management
- \$ Sondheim Scholars
- \$ Department of Economics

- \$ Vice President for Student Affairs
- \$ Division of Information Technology
- \$ Breaking Ground
- \$ Commonvision
- \$ Student Business Services
- \$ Events and Conference Services
- \$ Student Affairs Business Service Center

Goals and Future Directions

\$ The first year of this program at UMBC met the following goals:

- ✓ Trained more than 15 volunteers
- ✓ Completed and filed more than 60 tax returns

\$ Next year's goal is to expand the program to serve more clients and train more volunteers

\$ The IRS uses tax returns prepared by VITA to determine the success of the program and their advice will inform improvements for next year