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**LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON 2018 FEDERAL INCOME
TAX RETURNS AND SOME OF THE NEW CHANGES**

EDISON — Details for low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans about filing federal income tax returns for 2018, as well as some key changes taking effect for this year's returns, are the focus of the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, "Looking Out For Your Legal Rights," is accessible online at www.lsnjlaw.org and is available at all New Jersey Legal Services offices.

The newsletter stresses that even though many people may have had incomes last year below the threshold required for filing a tax return, they still may want to do so by the April 15 deadline because they could still qualify for a refund or some other financial benefits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The newsletter includes a chart people can use to determine if they are required to file a return.

Another point underscored in the publication is that people with incomes under \$55,000 should avoid going to paid tax preparers because they can get such help free from two sources: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) by calling 1-800-906-9887 or going to www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers.

The newsletter further notes people anticipating refunds should steer away from firms that offer instant cash in advance of the refunds — actual loans from which fees and interest are deducted.

The publication explains the meaning of such terms as filing status, standard deductions or itemized deductions, tax credits and other key aspects of income tax returns, including the availability of six-month filing extensions if sought before the April 15 deadline.

There also is a section highlighting some of the major changes that affect this year's filings and others that will take effect next year under the new tax law enacted by Congress in 2017.

Meanwhile, individuals who need help with tax issues may financially qualify for assistance from LSNJ's Tax Legal Assistance Project (TLAP) at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or 1-888-576-5529.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.
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