

Get the most out of your income tax refund

Avoid tax refund anticipation loans!

Income tax refund anticipation loans (RALs) are loans made by tax preparers based on the amount of your **expected tax refund**.

Tax preparers often advertise “instant” or “fast cash” refunds.

BEWARE: RALs are loans, not your tax refund. If your preparer makes a mistake and your refund is smaller than expected, you still have to repay the rest of the loan. If you don't repay the loan, it could hurt your credit rating and debt collectors may contact you.



RALs are expensive

For a refund of \$3,000, a customer would pay the following fees:

RAL fee	\$107.50
Application fee*	\$40.00
Tax preparation fee	\$183.00
Check cashing fee	\$67.50
Total cost	\$398
APR**	189%

Why pay \$400 for your own money?

Instead of paying high fees to get your refund, you can **get your refund for free** in only 10 days through direct deposit into your bank or credit union account. Is it really worth \$400 to get your money one week earlier and risk owing even more money?

You can get **free and reliable tax preparation services** if you are low- or moderate-income, disabled, over 60, or a military service member or family member. You can find the nearest free tax preparation site and find out if you're eligible at **1-800-829-1040**.

*Some tax preparers do not charge application fees.

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR) calculated based on RAL fee and application fee of \$147.50.