



VITA/TCE Volunteer Tax Alert (VTA)

Thank you for volunteering and for your dedication to top QUALITY service!

VTA Number	VTA-2015-01
Date Issued	January 12, 2015
Tax Law Topic	Cancellation of Debt (COD)
Tax Law Change	The Tax Increase Prevention Act, signed into law 12/19/2014, extends the tax exclusion of imputed income from the discharge of indebtedness for a principal residence through 2014. This is only a one year extension for tax year 2014. Until this legislation was enacted this provision was considered expired and was not included in the 2014 VITA/TCE training. Other extended provisions in-scope for VITA/TCE will be included in the Publication 4491X, VITA/TCE Training Supplement. Nonbusiness credit card debt cancellation was removed from the Cancellation of Debt (COD) curriculum and inserted in the Advanced curriculum beginning tax year 2014.
How to review the COD training module	The course is not available on Link & Learn Taxes (L&LT) . To access the training, volunteers must download Publication 5182, Cancellation of Debt for Mortgages , from http://www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs . Only the test is available through L<.
How to Certify in the COD module	Volunteers can access the online certification at https://www.linklearncertification.com . Volunteers must first pass the Advanced test. The COD exam appears as a choice that can be selected on the Advanced tab. Click on the exam, and select "Launch" in the pop-up box. Volunteers may choose to review a paper copy of the test before taking it online. The test can be downloaded as a PDF in Publication 5182, available at http://www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs .
How to Record COD Certification	The COD certification test is available on the Link & Learn Taxes online certification site. The Form 13615, Volunteer Standards of Conduct Agreement, will automatically record the completion of the COD certification. Sign, print and submit the agreement as described in Publication 4961, VITA/TCE Volunteer Standards of Conduct - Ethics Training.
Volunteers Role	Volunteers should check with their site coordinator to determine if they should certify in the COD module.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication 4961• Publication 5182• Link & Learn Taxes online certification site

For additional questions, please talk to your site coordinator, partner, or IRS SPEC relationship manager.