

TAX RELIEF FOR HURRICANE SANDY VICTIMS

By *Sekou Lewis*

Due to Hurricane Sandy's impact, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has extended various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting in late October.

Affected individuals and businesses have until February 1, 2013 to file and pay the following:

- Fourth quarter individual estimated payments, normally due January 15, 2013
- Payroll and excise tax returns and accompanying payments for the third and fourth quarters, normally due on October 31, 2012 and January 31, 2013 respectively
- Tax exempt organizations required to file Form 990 series returns with an original or extended deadline falling during this period

Additionally, the IRS will abate any interest, late-payment or late-filing penalty that would otherwise apply. Also, the IRS is waiving failure-to-deposit penalties for federal payroll and excise tax deposits normally due on or after the disaster area start date and before November 26, if the deposits are made by November 26, 2012.

Taxpayers are not required to contact the IRS; this relief automatically applies to taxpayers located in the following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated disaster areas:

- Connecticut: Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, and New London Counties and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Mohegan Tribal Nation located within New London County
- New Jersey: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset and Union
- New York: Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester

Other locations may be added soon based on damage assessments by FEMA.

The IRS has stated that it is willing to work with anyone who resides outside of the FEMA-designated disaster area, but whose books, records or tax professionals are located in the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Also, all workers assisting the relief activities in the covered disaster areas,

and who are affiliated with a recognized government or philanthropic organization, are eligible for relief.

Taxpayers who live outside of the impacted areas and believe they may qualify for this relief may call the IRS at 866-562-5227.

For additional information on disaster recovery, visit www.disasterassistance.gov. ♦

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