

Hi Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you all for the opportunity to allow the NAYA Family Center to provide our voice on the importance of implementing a Taxpayer Advocacy Department, HB 3373. I have provided answers below to the questions raised in today's committee meeting. I'm happy to answer any other questions folks might have.

1. Why did NAYA's tax site disband?
 - a. There was no dedicated resource to cover NAYA's expenses associated to this work. CASH/VITA got all the funds and then they'd give NAYA \$5K to host the tax site, recruit volunteers, have NAYA be available during weekends/evenings to assist with the tax site. Also, after the tax season was over, NAYA staff still had to answer questions for clients when their tax returns had complications. So NAYA had to leverage additional resources to subsidize this work. Since there are other tax providers, and our resources were very limited, we had to make the difficult choice to refer clients externally.
2. What was the funding source that supported NAYAs Tax Site?
 - a. Toward the end of the program, it was all CASH. Before that, it was VITA (IRS) and Bank of the West who supported our tax site.
3. Did NAYA employ staff to this effort? If so, how many? Were there volunteers? If so, how many?
 - a. We had a tax site coordinator before, which had more program resources. In recent years, NAYA only received \$5K. This prevented us from employing staff. VITA/CASH recruited volunteers, but just by the fact that we hosted the site at our space we incurred a ton of staff time having to step in to support.

Respectfully,

Will

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