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COVID-19 Resources

IRS Stimulus Payment Information

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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT FACT SHEET (updated 4/22/2020)

CAUTION—The information contained in this Fact Sheet may change when the IRS releases additional information about the Act to the public. The CARES Act was drafted quickly by Congress and the government is still looking at ways to make sure the Act works as it is supposed to.

What is it? The Economic Impact Payment (EIP) or “stimulus payment” is an advance payment of a 2020 refundable tax credit. If a taxpayer does not receive the money now, they can claim it on their 2020 tax return.

How much is it? The stimulus payment is based on the taxpayer’s filing status, number of dependents, and the taxpayer’s Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

- ⇒ Single filers with an AGI of \$75,000 or less, will receive \$1,200
- ⇒ Married Filing Joint filers with an AGI of \$150,000 or less will receive \$2,400
- ⇒ An extra \$500 will be paid for each eligible child (16 years old or younger)

Do I have to do anything to get the money? The IRS will send you the payment automatically if:

- ⇒ You filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return and included direct deposit information
- ⇒ You receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI) or Railroad Retirement benefits (RRB)
- ⇒ You receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ⇒ You receive Veterans Affairs benefits and did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019

Where will the IRS send the money? It will be deposited directly into the bank account that the taxpayer included on their 2019 tax return. If no return was filed for the 2019 tax year, then the information on the 2018 tax return will be used.

- ⇒ If no direct deposit information was included on the tax return, then a paper check will be sent to the taxpayer’s last known address. This information will be taken from the last tax return that was filed.
- ⇒ If you moved since the last time you filed a tax return, then you should go to the [USPS official website](#) and update your address, if you have not already done so.
- ⇒ The IRS will send a notice to taxpayers about 15 days after the stimulus payment is made. That notice will provide the amount of the payment, the way it was paid, and a telephone number to call if the taxpayer does not receive the payment.

When will the IRS send the money? Direct deposits started the week of April 13 and paper checks began being mailed the week of April 20. Only 5 million paper checks are being mailed each week, so it could take as long as 20 weeks for all the checks to be sent. Paper checks are being sent to the lowest-income Americans first.



Can I pay someone to help me get the stimulus payment faster? NO, if someone says they can do this for you, it is probably a scam!

Is there a way to check *when* I will get the stimulus payment?

- ⇒ Yes, go to the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment> and use the tool called [Get My Payment](#).
- ⇒ You can check the status of your stimulus payment. It will give you the date that the stimulus payment is expected to be deposited into your bank account or when the IRS plans to mail a paper check.
- ⇒ You can update your banking information with this tool. If the IRS has scheduled to mail you a paper check, then you will not be able to change it to direct deposit.
- ⇒ The IRS updates [Get My Payment](#) daily. Checking more than once a day could lock you out of the system due to security and fraud concerns.
- ⇒ You may get an error message if–
 - ◇ The IRS has not processed your 2019 tax return yet
 - ◇ You have not filed a tax return for 2019, but you are required to file a tax return because you made more than \$12,200 (if single) or \$24,400 (if married)
 - ◇ Your information has not been added to the system yet if you used the *Non-Filers* tool or your income is SSA / RRB, SSI or VA
 - ◇ You are not eligible for the stimulus payment

What if the IRS does not have my direct deposit information? The IRS has set up an online tool called *Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here* as a way for people to enter their direct deposit information [online](#). Visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here> to enter your direct deposit information.

Make sure you have the following information ready:

- ⇒ Your full name, current mailing address, and your email address
- ⇒ Your date of birth and Social Security Number (SSN)
- ⇒ Your bank account number, bank account type (checking or savings), and the routing number, if you have one
- ⇒ The Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) that the IRS sent you earlier this year, if you have one
- ⇒ Your driver's license or state-issued ID, if you have one
- ⇒ For each dependent child: their name, SSN or Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number, and their relationship to you or your spouse

This link will direct you to the Free File website to create a free account so you can submit a simple tax return for 2019.

- ⇒ You will give your filing status (Single or Married Filing Jointly) and enter the SSNs for you, your spouse, and any eligible children.
- ⇒ Next, you will enter your bank account information. If you do not have a bank account, then the IRS will send you a paper check.
- ⇒ Finally, you will need your driver's license or state-issued ID to enter your personal information. Leave this blank if you do not have the information.
- ⇒ Once you're done, you will get a confirmation email. If there was a problem with your information, then the email will let you know how to fix it.



Can everyone use the *Non-Filers* tool to update their banking information? No. Do not use the online tool if you have already filed your 2019 tax return. Do not use the online tool if you are required to file a tax return for 2019. Instead, you should file your 2019 tax return electronically and enter your banking information.

What if I don't file a tax return because my only income is Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits? You do not need to do anything. The IRS will send you the \$1,200 stimulus payment automatically. They will send your stimulus payment to you the same way that you now receive your monthly benefits. Payments should begin April 27.

What if I don't file a tax return because my only income is Social Security, SSDI, or Railroad Retirement benefits AND I have an eligible child—will I get the extra \$500? Yes, but you must use the *Non-Filers* tool on to claim these dependents. The deadline to provide information on your dependents was April 22, 2020. If you missed the deadline to give the IRS information for your dependents, you will have to claim the extra \$500 stimulus payment on your 2020 tax return that you file next year.

What if I don't file a tax return because my only income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or service-related VA disability pension? You do not need to do anything. The IRS will send you the \$1,200 stimulus payment automatically. They will send your stimulus payment to you the same way that you now receive your monthly benefits. Payments should begin May 4.

SSI and VA beneficiaries who have eligible dependents should provide information on their dependents using the *Non-Filers* tool as soon as possible to ensure they receive the extra \$500 now. Otherwise, they will have to wait until they file their 2020 tax return next year to claim the \$500.

What if I don't file a tax return because I don't have any income? You should use the *Non-Filers* tool to update your address and direct deposit information, if you have a bank account. If you do not have a bank account, then the IRS will send a paper check to you.

Will the stimulus payment affect my SSI? Not according to the Social Security Administration website. It says that they will not treat the stimulus "payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months." <https://blog.ssa.gov/commissioner-of-social-security-shares-update-about-covid-19-economic-impact-payments-for-beneficiaries/>

Will I get the stimulus payment if I owe the IRS or another government agency debt?

YES—if you owe the IRS money or if it is for another federal or state debt.

NO—if the debt is for back-owed child support.

What if someone else claimed me as a dependent on their tax return?

⇒ If you were claimed as a dependent in 2019, you won't get the stimulus payment.

⇒ If you were claimed as a dependent in 2018, but you can file your own tax return for 2019, then you should file your 2019 tax return electronically.

What if I'm the victim of tax preparer fraud or the victim of tax-related identity theft and the direct deposit information on the 2019 tax return doesn't belong to me?

You may be able to update your banking information using *Get My Payment*.

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas' (LANWT) Low Income Taxpayer Clinic provides legal assistance and information on dealing with the IRS and helps with federal tax questions. Individuals may apply for legal assistance with LANWT by calling our Legal Aid Line at 888-529-5577 or by applying online at www.lanwt.org. You can also visit our website to find the Legal Aid office near you.



Should I file my 2019 tax return? If you usually file a tax return and are required to file taxes, then you should file your 2019 tax return electronically by using the IRS' "Free File" resources. Please visit <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>.

What if I need to file a tax return?

- ⇒ If you have not filed either a 2018 or 2019 tax return and you do not have enough information to file a 2019 tax return, then you should file your 2018 tax return.
- ⇒ Visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript> for more information to get the documents you need to prepare either your 2019 or 2018 tax return.
- ⇒ The "Wage and Income Transcript" provides information that has been reported to the IRS by your employer or someone else who paid you for work. This information will help you prepare your tax return.
- ⇒ It includes income statements (such as W-2 and 1099 forms) and other information that will help you get credits you can claim (such as mortgage and student interest statements).
- ⇒ The "Tax Return Transcript" provides information that you reported on your tax return. If you are filing a tax return electronically, you will need a previous year's AGI.
- ⇒ For a 2019 tax return, you'll need your 2018 Tax Return Transcript.
- ⇒ For a 2018 tax return, you'll need your 2017 Tax Return Transcript.

CAUTION: When you file a tax return, you are swearing that the information you provide is complete and correct. You face penalties if you know that you are filing an incorrect return.

What can I do now?

- ⇒ Look to other support and relief that is available, such as unemployment benefits. Some cities and organizations are offering to help people with rent or utility payments. You should call "2-1-1" if you need other sources of assistance.
- ⇒ Update your address at <https://www.usa.gov/post-office> (USPS official website).
- ⇒ If you are experiencing an economic hardship, contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service in Dallas at 214-413-6500.