

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT IRS RESOURCES

To aid Americans during the COVID-19 crisis, Congress passed the CARES Act, which directs the IRS to issue Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) to eligible individuals, married couples, and families with children.

1. Individuals who filed tax returns for 2018 or 2019 and recipients of Social Security retirement benefits, SSDI, SSI, and veterans' benefits should receive their payments automatically. EIP information for this group is here: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

2. The IRS has a tool for individuals who had no or little income and thus no tax filing obligation. This tool creates and e-files the equivalent of a tax return for 2019:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>. *Caution:* Using this tool to obtain the EIP now will prohibit the user from later e-filing a standard tax return for 2019. Because low-income taxpayers may, in addition to the EIP, be eligible for a tax refund (due to over-withholding or a refundable credit), they may instead want to obtain their automatic EIP by filing their regular 2019 return with the IRS's free file program. (Refunds claimed on a paper return will be delayed because of the pandemic.) The IRS's free filing program is: <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>.

3. People can check on the status of their EIP through the IRS' "Get My Payment" tool.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>. If bank account information was included on a 2018 or 2019 return and a refund received for either year, the EIP should be deposited into that account. If a payment was due for both the 2018 and 2019 return (if already filed), then bank account information will need to be entered for a direct deposit, otherwise the IRS will send a paper check.

4. The IRS has posted Frequently Asked Questions regarding the EIP: www.irs.gov/eipfaq. It has also developed a toolkit to assist anyone trying to determine eligibility for the EIP and to provide instructions: www.irs.gov/EIPpartners. Note that these tools do not help you determine whether to e-file a full tax return for 2019 or use the non-filer tool.

5. Outreach and advocacy organizations can access IRS promotional and explanatory material: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-partner-and-promotional-materials>.

6. Persons with questions may contact a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and receive advice at no charge. A list of such clinics can be found at: <https://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about/litc>.

GUARD AGAINST FRAUD

Everyone potentially eligible for the Economic Impact Payments should be mindful of scams aimed at stealing personal information or taking a percentage of EIP funds for assistance in obtaining the payments. The IRS will not call, email or text about EIP. The only official source of information about the EIP is at www.irs.gov.



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