

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT IRS AND OTHER 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. The IRS continues to update its website with information about the EIP. Various groups have created new useful outreach materials.

1. Individuals who filed tax returns for 2018 or 2019 and recipients of Social Security retirement benefits, SSDI, SSI, and veterans' benefits should for the most part have received their payments automatically either through the account they receive their benefits payments, in a paper check, or on a direct debit card in the mail. EIP information for this group is found at: <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 to claim the EIP. 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 EIP eligible individuals 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 a 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 found at: <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>. The initial deadline for filing a 2019 return with a balance due is July 15, 2020.
3. People can check on the status of their EIP through the IRS's "Get My Payment" tool at: <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 have been deposited into that account. If a payment was due for both the 2018 and 2019 return (if already filed), the IRS should have sent a paper check or a direct debit card with the funds loaded to the address on file.
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. Persons with questions may contact a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and receive advice at no charge. A list of such clinics is found at: <https://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about/litc>.
5. The IRS's Taxpayer Advocate has posted a link to assist potentially eligible taxpayers in obtaining their EIPs at: <https://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/news/tas-tax-tip-what-steps-do-i-need-to-take-to-get-an-economic-impact-payment?category=Tax%20Tips&taxissue=6368>.
6. Volunteers have translated a fact sheet with EIP-related information into 37 languages to assist non-English speaking taxpayers with the EIP issues, found at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iyS9BZpWkYjZ46pqS1UImkkw-GeiudkHd/view>.
7. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities has produced an extensive outreach kit including flyers, social media posts, talking points available at: <https://www.eitc outreach.org/tax-filing/coronavirus/>

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 the EIP. The only official source of information about the EIP is at www.irs.gov.



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