Stimulus Money and Taxes during COVID-19

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What are Economic Impact Payments (EIP)?

- Payments are:
  - $1,200 for single filer making up to $75K
  - $2,400 for married couple making up to $150K
  - $1,200 for HOH filer making up to $112,500
    - $500 for qualifying child younger than 17
  - Payments begin to phase out beyond these levels
Who automatically obtains these payments?

- If you are a U.S. citizen, LPR, or have SSN (and you can’t be claimed as a dependent), you are eligible. If you are eligible, you automatically get EIP (if within income limits) if any of these are true:
  - You filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return
  - You get Social Security or railroad benefits
  - You get SSI benefits
  - You get VA benefits
Who Needs to Use the IRS Non-Filer Portal

• Anyone not required to and w/ no reason to file 2018 or 2019 return (had no income, got only SNAP or TANF): https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here

• Anyone who **only** receives Social Security, railroad, SSI, or veterans’ benefits **and** who has a child under 17 related to and living with them (deadline for Soc. Sec. recipients w/ child under 17 was 4/22 12 EST; deadline for VA & SSI recipients w/ child: 5/5!)

• Anyone who didn’t receive Social Security or SSI until ‘20 (and did not file/had no reason to file ‘18 or ‘19)
Can you still file a 2018 or 2019 return?

• Yes. **IMPORTANTLY:** If you have not filed a 2019 return yet and you expect a refund – even if your income was below the “filing thresholds” – please file your return ASAP. Don’t delay!

• Do NOT use Non-Filer portal if you can claim a ‘19 refund! Otherwise, you run the risk of complicating your return.

• Filing either 2018 or 2019 return will put you on record for EIP

• How can I file?
  • Campaign for Working Families (https://cwfphilly.org/)
  • PathwaysPA (https://pathwaysvita.com/file-online/)
  • Find your local VITA (https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/)
How will I receive my payment?

• IRS began first payments by direct deposit week of 4/13. Within 15 days of payment, you will receive a letter.
• If direct deposit on ‘18 or ‘19 return, EIP likely goes there.
• If you get Social Security, railroad, SSI, or VA benefits: however you receive benefits, payment goes there
• If no direct deposit info on return = paper check via mail
• Need to add direct deposit info for IRS? Change address?
  • Use “Get My Payment” app (check EIP status too) on IRS: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment
  • Changing address? Likely need to do so via USPS: https://moversguide.usps.com/mgo/
Your payment is yours!

• Your payment will NOT be taken for past government debts, including debts owed to the IRS! Only government debt it can be taken for is child support arrears.

• The payment is NOT taxable!

• You do not have to pay it back. If you qualify for additional payment based on your 2020 return, you will get the rest back when you file that return in early 2021.
IRS, State, and Local Relief Post-COVID-19

- IRS and PA tax filing & payment deadlines moved to July 15
- Can still file for IRS extension to October 15
- 2016 IRS refund claims now due 7/15/20
- Relief on IRS time-sensitive actions due between 4/1-7/15
- IRS installment agreement payments can be suspended between 4/1 to 7/15
- IRS OIC payments, info can be suspended through 7/15
- IRS stopped most collection action
- Philadelphia BIRT, NPT, earnings tax now due 7/15
Thank you!

• Contact Philadelphia Legal Assistance Low Income Taxpayer Clinic with questions or if you have difficulty accessing your stimulus payment
  • Call 215-981-3800 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday with questions or use PLA online intake for your tax and stimulus-payment related questions.
  • Consult our stimulus checks guide: https://philalegal.org/stimuluscheck
  • Consult this helpful Community Legal Services FAQ guide we helped put together: https://clsphila.org/consumer-rights/economic-stimulus-payments/