



# COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

April 16, 2020

## Federal Coronavirus Stimulus (Rebate) Payments

On March 27, 2020, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress was signed into law. Here is a summary of what's in the law:

### Who gets stimulus (rebate) payments and how much are they?

- Eligible adults will receive a **one-time payment of up to \$1,200**, and an additional \$500 for each child in their household under 17 who is claimed as a dependent.
  - Single (or married filing separately) taxpayers with no children and an income of \$75,000 or less will get \$1,200.
  - Married couples filing jointly and earning \$150,000 or less will receive \$2,400, plus \$500 per child.
  - Taxpayers filing as head of household and earning \$112,500 or less will get \$1,200, plus \$500 for each child.
- Benefits phase out at higher income levels.
- Payments are based upon 2019 tax return if filed or 2018 tax return if 2019 has not been filed.

### Who is eligible to receive payment?

- You must have a social security number to qualify. This includes:
  - Adults who file tax returns
  - Individuals receiving social security retirement, social security disability insurance (SSDI), or Supplement Security Income (SSI)
- Adults who are over 16, but still claimed as dependents, are not eligible for a stimulus check.
- You don't have to be employed to get a payment

### What do I have to do to get a stimulus (rebate) payment?

- This is not a payment you apply for.
- 2019 and 2018 tax filers will receive their payment automatically.
- Individuals who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security Retirement, Social Security Survivors, or Railroad Retirement benefits **will not have to file a tax return** in order to receive a stimulus payment. They will receive payment automatically.
- At this point, individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will have to file a tax return to receive payment or use the IRS "Non-Filers Tool," described below.

### What if I am eligible for a stimulus payment, but did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019?

Go to the **IRS Non-Filers Tool** at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>.

This includes:

- Low-income persons who are under the income limits for filing taxes (single filers who made less than \$12,200/year and married joint filers who made less than \$24,400 in 2019).

- Persons who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.
- Persons who receive Veteran’s benefits.
- Persons who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security Retirement, Social Security Survivors, or Railroad Retirement benefits, who do not normally file a tax return, and who want to claim the \$500 payment for qualifying children.

#### How will I receive my payment?

- Payments will be made by direct deposit if account is provided on tax return.
- IRS says a “web based portal” will let you add information.
- Checks will be mailed if no direct deposit account is available. Mailed checks may take weeks longer than payment by direct deposit.

#### When will stimulus payments be sent?

- The U.S. Department of Treasury says it will get payments out by mid-April.

#### How will a stimulus payment affect public benefits I am receiving or my taxes?

- **Stimulus (rebate) payments are NOT counted as income for public benefit programs, including Medical Assistance (Medicaid), SNAP (food stamps), and TANF cash assistance.**
- The stimulus payments are a tax credit. They do not have to be paid back. They will not reduce any refund you might be entitled to this year. They will have no impact on your taxes next year.

#### Immigrant eligibility for stimulus payments and impact on immigration relief

- Immigrants with social security numbers who meet the income eligibility thresholds will receive payment.
- Undocumented immigrants will **not** receive a stimulus payment, even if they pay taxes.
- Additionally, a family won’t be eligible if one parent has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Unfortunately, this includes payment for children under 17 who are citizens.
- Stimulus (rebate) payments are **not** considered in a public charge determination for those applying for adjustment of status (legal permanent residency) (green card).

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*Community Justice Project is a nonprofit legal aid program that provides legal assistance at no cost to income-eligible clients*

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