

If You Are on SSI, Veterans' Benefits or Don't Pay Taxes, You Can Get \$1,200 Stimulus Check through a New IRS Website

The federal government is sending most Americans earning under \$75,000 a \$1,200 stimulus check to help with expenses during the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 and chose direct deposit of their refund will automatically receive the payment. Individuals who receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI) or who receive Railroad Retirement benefits, but did not file a return for 2019 or 2018, will also automatically receive a payment in the near future (see below for additional information if you have qualifying children under age 17).

The federal government initially said that people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans' Benefits and those who hadn't filed tax returns would have to file a simplified tax return to get their stimulus checks. APLA Health and other advocacy organizations have been advocating for a simpler mechanism and urged the IRS, Social Security and Veterans' Affairs to just use account numbers they already have. Now, the IRS has launched a new website www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here where people on SSI, Veterans' Benefits and those who did not file income tax returns can register to receive their payment.

- On the IRS website, look for “Non-Filers: Enter Your Payment Info Here.” The website is secure and the information you enter will be safe. The IRS will use your information to confirm eligibility and send your “Economic Impact Payment.”
- The IRS will need your current mailing address and email, valid Social Security Number, bank account routing and account number (both are on all of your checks) if you have one and a driver's license or state-issued ID. People who do not have a bank account can get their checks through the mail or go to JoinBankOn.org to open a free, safe online account.
- People who receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability insurance benefits and who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who have qualifying children under age 17 should also go to the IRS's webpage to enter their information about them and their qualifying children. They will receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment. If Social Security beneficiaries in this group do not provide their information to the IRS soon, they will have to wait to receive their \$500 per qualifying child.
- These stimulus payments will not be considered income and will not count against your assets (under \$2,000 for single individuals) if you collect SSI, unless you still have all or part of the money in your bank account 12 months after receiving it.
- If you enter your bank account information, the IRS will deposit your check directly into your bank account. Otherwise, they will mail the payment to you.
- For more information for Social Security and disability benefits and the Coronavirus, go to socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus.
- A word of caution: when you have finished filling out your form, the IRS will email you and ask you to verify your email address. Then you will get transferred to what looks like the start page for e-file for tax returns. It's a little confusing.