

CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT CHECKS FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

- **DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS:** To address unforeseen financial challenges not covered by expanded Unemployment Insurance benefits or modified Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, the bill authorizes direct payments of \$1,200 for individuals and \$2,400 for couples. Families are also eligible for an additional \$500 per child. Working class Americans that file their taxes will receive a direct payment. Those who are on Social Security or otherwise do not file income taxes will receive their payment in the form of check.
- **ELIGIBILITY:** An individual is eligible for the full benefit if they make less than \$75,000 per year. Couples and other joint filers are eligible if their combined annual income is less than \$150,000. Above that threshold, benefits will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income and phased out entirely for those making \$99,000 or more (\$198,000 for couples).
- **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS:** Any individual making \$99,000 or more per year will not receive any direct payment. Any couple or other joint filers making \$198,000 or more per year will not receive any direct payment.
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:** While the U.S. Treasury is ultimately responsible for the implementation of this program, below are some preliminary answers to many commonly asked questions:

Can those who do not normally file their taxes receive a check?

Yes. Individuals that receive form SSA-1099, which includes those that are receiving Old-Age, Survivor, and Disability (OASDI) benefits through Social Security, and individuals that receive form RRB-1099, which includes those that have worked in jobs covered by the Railroad Retirement Act, will be eligible for the stimulus check and will not be required to fill out any additional tax documents. For all others who do not normally file their taxes, including seniors and some veterans who do not normally file tax returns, they are also eligible to receive a check; however, in order to receive the stimulus payment, an individual that falls into one of these categories will need to file a simple tax return for 2019.

Will SSA administer the funds to my EBT/Debit card that I receive my SSA benefits through?

Our understanding is that IRS is sending out the rebates (via direct deposit or checks).

How does an individual claim their check?

They do not need to claim their checks (unless they have not either filed a tax return this year or last year) – IRS will send out rebates automatically to their direct deposit or to the address provided on the last tax return submitted.

How long will it take for this check to be delivered?

Rebates sent via direct deposit will take a few weeks. Rebates sent via checks may take a few months. Senator Manchin is urging the U.S. Treasury to issue these rebates as quickly as possible.

Will I be taxed on this check?

No, rebates are not taxable.

Will I be eligible if I haven't finished filing my 2018 or 2019 taxes?

Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation and who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can in order to receive a stimulus payment. If possible, the IRS encourages individuals to include direct deposit information on their return.

Will I be eligible if I have a lien against me, but I am in non-collect status?

Yes. Rebates will not be subject to garnishment, except if back child support is owed.

I withdrew my retirement in 2018- so my income that year was inflated. Is there any waiver for one time sources of income?

In this case, the taxpayer should file a 2019 tax return.

DISCLAIMER: This document is intended to provide preliminary guidance based on Congressional intent and does not constitute legal advice. It also does not replace official implementation guidance from the relevant state and federal agencies.

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Senator Manchin's staff will return your call or email as soon as possible.