Looking For Your Stimulus Check?  
New IRS Tool Now Lets Tax Filers Update Direct Deposit, Track Progress

The Treasury Department and the IRS have released a new on-line tool to allow taxpayers to get the status of their economic impact payment and update their direct deposit information to receive their stimulus checks more quickly. The tool is now available on-line for those taxpayers who have filed 2018 and/or 2019 tax returns.

The new tool, Get My Payment, which is will:

♦ Provide you with the status of your payment, including projected date payment will be sent via direct deposit or mail

♦ Advise you of your payment type; and allow eligible taxpayers a chance to provide bank account information to receive payments without waiting for a paper check. This feature will be unavailable if the Economic Impact Payment has already been scheduled for delivery.


To use the new tool, you will need your completed 2019 tax return (if filed) and your 2018 tax return. You will also be asked to enter a few bits of key information, including your Social Security Number, date of birth, and address:

Data is updated once per day overnight, so there’s no need to check back more than once per day.

Note: If you are an SSA or RRB Form 1099 recipient or SSI or VA benefit recipient, your information is not yet available in this application.
Important Tax Considerations for Unemployment Recipients

The CARES stimulus package provided unemployment recipients with an extra $600 a week on top of their standard weekly benefit. Unemployment benefits have also been extended by 13 weeks, and are now available to out-of-work freelancers.

If you're collecting unemployment benefits, it is important to know that unemployment benefits are considered income; therefore, they are taxable and will need to be declared as part of your 2020 income taxes. You will have the choice to have 10% of your weekly benefit withheld immediately, or you can make estimated quarterly tax payments to the IRS during the year. Keep in mind that when considering your total tax obligation you will need to account for your total income, not just those weekly payments.

If you receive unemployment benefits this year, you'll receive a 1099 form summarizing that income that the IRS will get a copy of as well. For more information, consult your tax professional or go to www.irs.gov.

State and Federal Tax Deadline Extended


NEW YORK STATE WILL IMMEDIATELY WAIVE THE 7-DAY WAITING PERIOD FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LAIED OFF DUE TO CORONAVIRUS.

WHAT YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE

- New York announced unemployment benefits will be extended 13 weeks, up to 39 weeks.
- Plus an immediate additional $600 will be given to unemployment filers.

Apply online at https://www.ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance

- If you already receive benefits, do nothing
- If you do not have a computer, call 1-888-209-8154

Unemployment Benefits Finder

The Department of Labor has sponsored the creation of an unemployment benefits finder. Each state administers their own Unemployment Insurance program, state websites are the best source for updated information, including new options related to coronavirus. To apply for unemployment benefits, select the state where you worked and this tool will link you to the website and contact information to file. For more information, visit https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/

The Social Security Administration announced today that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will automatically receive their Economic Impact Payments directly to their bank accounts through direct deposit, Direct Express debit card, or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their SSI benefits. Treasury anticipates SSI recipients will receive these automatic payments no later than early May.

“SSI recipients with no qualifying children do not need to take any action in order to receive their $1,200 economic impact payment. The payments will be automatic,” said Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin. “Recipients with qualifying children should use the Non-Filers web portal to enter basic information so they can receive their payments as quickly as possible.”

Recipients will receive the $500 per dependent child payment in addition to their $1,200 individual payment. If SSI beneficiaries in this group do not provide their information to the IRS soon, they will have to wait until later to receive their $500 per qualifying child.

For those SSI recipients with dependents who use Direct Express debit cards, additional information will be available soon regarding the steps to take on the IRS web site when claiming children under 17.

The Social Security Administration will not consider Economic Impact Payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months.

For more information, visit https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm979

IRS.gov Feature Helps People Who Normally Don’t File Taxes

There is a new web tool allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments for those who don’t normally file a tax return. The non-filer tool provides a free and easy option designed for people who don't have a return filing obligation, including those with too little income to file, Veterans beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, The process is simple and only takes a few minutes to complete.

Visit IRS.gov, and look for "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here." Then provide basic information including Social Security number, name, address, and dependents. The IRS will use this information to confirm eligibility and calculate and send an Economic Impact Payment. Using the tool to get your payment will not result in any taxes being owed. Entering bank or financial payment directly in your account. Otherwise, your payment will be mailed to you.

This new tool is designed for people who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who don’t receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits. Others who should consider the Non-Filers tool as an option, include:

Thrift Savings Plan: Stick to Your Plan

The stock and bond markets can change rapidly. By the time you react to the situation, the market may be moving in the opposite direction, and you could miss out on significant gains. Remember that investing for retirement is for the long-term. Try not to let short-term market movements steer you off course.

COVID-19 Response AER Assistance Remains Available at Fort Drum

All routine assistance cases will still be handled through local AER office. Fort Drum AER caseworkers are providing full virtual support. AER has established an electronic process for Soldiers to submit assistance requests via email and secure document upload. The Fort Drum AER staff can be reached by calling 315-772-6555 or by sending an email to the Army Emergency Relief Officer at michael.h.ferguson.civ@mail.mil.

The Soldier will receive financial assistance via electronic fund payment directly to Soldier’s bank account once the request is approved and all required documentation is completed. American Red Cross provides assistance outside of normal operating hours, call 877-272-7337, 24 hours 7 days a week. For most up-to-date information on AER assistance, please visit the web portal for COVID-19 and routine assistance guidance at armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19

DAV Offers Grants to Disabled Veterans After Job Loss

Service-connected disabled veterans who lost employment because of COVID-19, can apply for $250 grants from Disabled American Veterans. Any veteran with a service-connected disability can apply online starting 20 April. Applicants do not have to be a member of DAV, but are required to verify job loss, and DAV service officers will verify their service-connected disability with the Department of Veterans Affairs before funds are released. Veterans can receive one grant per household and are encouraged to take part in DAV virtual job fairs, which are still taking place during the pandemic. Many of the opportunities allow veterans to work from home. During this pandemic, DAV is adapting to changes, they anticipate that programs will take a hit. While the nonprofit is still helping veterans file claims with the VA – though not in person — their transportation program that helps veterans get to VA medical appointments has nearly come to a halt. Veterans can apply for a DAV unemployment grant, which will be issued on a first-come first-serve basis, at www.DAV.org/COVIDrelief

For Accurate and Up-to-date Information about COVID-19

- cdc.gov/coronavirus https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- usa.gov/coronavirus https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus
- fbi.gov/coronavirus https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus

Thrift Savings Plan: Stick to Your Plan

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IRA and Retirement Plan Changes in the CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes provisions to change some retirement plan rules.

**Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are suspended for 2020.** If you already took the 2020 RMD, you will have to include it in gross income and pay taxes on it. But you might have some options. You have up to 60 days to return a distribution to an IRA or deposit it in another qualified retirement account without owing taxes on it. You also might convert the amount into a Roth IRA.

The deadline for making a 2019 contribution to an IRA also is extended to July 15, 2020 because of tax filing extension.

The 10% penalty for taking early distributions from qualified retirement plans, including TSP, IRAs, and 401(k)s, is waived. The waiver applies to distributions, up to $100,000, taken in 2020.

**The mandatory 20% income tax withholding for rollover distributions is suspended during this period.** In addition, income taxes on a coronavirus-related distribution can be paid over a three-year period. The individual also has up to three years to re-contribute the amount to a plan or IRA. An in-service distribution from a qualified retirement plan also is permitted if it is coronavirus-related.

**Retirement plan loan rules also are modified.** The maximum loan amount is increased for loans that are made between the March 27 and December 31, 2020. Normally the loan maximum is $50,000 or 50% of the vested account balance. During this period the maximum loan is doubled to the lower of $100,000 or 100% of the vested account balance. The due date for repayment of the loan is delayed one year.

To qualify for these IRA and retirement plan changes, a loan or distribution must be coronavirus-related. That means the individual, the individual’s spouse or a dependent must have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Or the individual must experience adverse financial consequences as a result of being quarantined, furloughed, or laid-off or having work hours reduced due to COVID-19. Also eligible are individuals who were unable to work due to lack of child care as a result of COVID-19. An individual whose business was closed or had reduced operating hours as a result of COVID-19 also is eligible.


**Change in Required Minimum Distribution Age for TSP**

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was signed into law on December 20, 2019. The law has an impact on TSP and other retirement accounts.

Most notably, the law changes the age at which you have to start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from 70½ to 72. Another key point of the legislation is that contributions to traditional IRAs after age 70½ are no longer prohibited. Individuals may continue contributing to an IRA at any age, as long as they have earned income.

Note: TSP Calculators are not currently adjusted for this change in legislation.

For more information, [https://www.fedsmith.com/2020/01/02/6-key-retirement-changes-of-the-secure-act/](https://www.fedsmith.com/2020/01/02/6-key-retirement-changes-of-the-secure-act/)
As COVID-19 Crisis Continues, Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Protects Military

The SCRA is a federal law designed to ease financial burdens on service members during periods of military service. The act covers issues such as rental agreements, security deposits, evictions, installment contracts, interest rates, mortgage foreclosures, civil judicial proceedings, automobile leases, insurance, and income tax payments.

Service members and their families could become locked into an untenable lease agreement due to a COVID-19 stop-movement order. For example, they might have entered a new lease agreement prior to a PCS move. When the stop-movement order canceled their move, they may now be forced to pay two rents. Protections are available under the SCRA.

For more information, https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2151133/

Free Virtual Financial Counseling Available

Yellow Ribbon Network has gathered a team of AFCPE® certified financial counselors and coaches to offer unbiased virtual financial counseling and coaching sessions. You will receive financial education and guidance specific to your unique situation and needs. You will be able to virtually address your immediate money challenges, create an effective spending plan, build savings, overcome debt, identify and modify ineffective money management behaviors, create a plan to navigate this time of uncertainty and achieve your goals. An AFCPE® certified professional will work closely to guide you through today’s challenges while helping you develop a solid financial foundation that can last a lifetime. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit: https://www.yellowribbonnetwork.org/afcpecovid19

Fort Drum Financial Readiness Program Virtual Military Saves Month Events

Military Saves is a DoD Financial Readiness campaign that seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military Families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. Teaching military personnel and their families how to manage their money and stay out of debt is crucial to mission success. The goal of the Military Saves is to get military families to commit to feasible financial goals that help them to remain financially resilient. Please take the savings pledge at https://militarysaves.org/for-savers/savings-tools-and-resources/take-the-pledge

Join us at: www.facebook.com/FortDrumFinancialReadiness/

Theme of the Week: Save With A Plan

Daily Facebook Events

April 20 Using Allowances to Help Children Reach Financial Goals
21 Develop Family Spend Plan
21 Children’s Story - Joseph Had a Little Overcoat
22 Planning for Your Financial Goals
23 Plan to Protect Savings: Personal Spending Allowance
23 Children’s Story - Counting Crocodiles
24 Savings Options, How Financial Institutions Can Help:
Q&A with Banking Professionals
**Virtual Family Assistance Center**

**Army Community Service - Information & Referral (I&R)**
315-836-7789; Email: tracy.j.hitchcock.civ@mail.mil

**Army Emergency Relief (AER)**
(315) 772-6560; Email: michael.h.ferguson.civ@mail.mil

**Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)**
315-778-3543; Email: sharon.w.chaple.civ@mail.mil

**Financial Readiness Program (FRP)**
Email: diane.r.hupko.civ@mail.mil

**Relocation Readiness Program (RRP)**
*For lending closet, request services through the Relocation Readiness’ Facebook page sending a direct message.

**Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)**
315-772-5447 or 315-775-7103; Email: jorilyn.starr.civ@mail.mil
315-772-6704 or 315-222-3457; Email: amanda.e.mason2.civ@mail.mil

**Family Advocacy Program (FAP)**
315-772-6929 or 585-880-7383; Email: derrick.n.ellis2.civ@mail.mil

**New Parent Support**
315-955-9671; Email: stacey.l.fry2.civ@mail.mil

**Victim Advocate Hotline** - 1-315-955-4321

**Division SHARP Hotline** – 1-315-767-6128

**Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)**
315-212-6919

**Community Relations - FDNY Quarantine & Isolation Assistance Line**
315-783-5828

*If you are unable to contact anyone listed above, please call:
Directorate of Human Resources
10720 Mt. Belvedere – Clark Hall
315-772-0866/3193 or 315-955-9988*