



Economic Impact Payments

The Federal Government announced that Economic Impact Payments (EIP) would be going out to all eligible Americans as early as mid-April. We know there has been a lot of noise surrounding this and if you caught our last article on cyber scams you already know there has been an increase in fraudulent activities and misinformation around this program. This FAQ will address three of the most common questions about the Economic Impact Payments.

Do I Need to Do Anything?

For most of us, the answer is no. The CARES Act makes eligible anyone who is not claimed as a dependent on another's tax return. The payments will be automatically sent out via direct deposit or paper check to all tax payers that filed in 2018 or 2019. If your direct deposit or address are still accurate from your taxes, then you do not need to do anything at all.

If you did not file in 2018 or 2019, or if your information has changed, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is setting up two portals that will allow you make changes to your information before payments go out. You will need to visit these portals and update your information in order to receive your payments. Visit the IRS' [official page](#) on Economic Impact Payments to get details on what you need to provide and the timing of when the portals will be live.

What Can I Expect My Economic Impact Payment to Be?

This can vary pretty widely depending on your annual income, number of children/dependents, and if you are married. In general, single adults with an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less will get \$1,200. Married couples earning a combined adjusted gross income of \$150,000 or less will receive a total of \$2,400. Individual and married taxpayers earning over \$75,000 and \$150,000 respectively will get reduced payments with full phase-outs at \$99,000 and \$198,000. There are additional \$500 payments for dependent children.

How Do I Know if I'm Being Contacted by the IRS?

IRS Commissioner Chuck Reig said it best: We urge people to take extra care during this period. The IRS isn't going to call you asking to verify or provide your financial information so you can get an economic impact payment or your refund faster. That also applies to surprise emails that appear to be coming from the IRS. Remember, don't open them or click on attachments or links.

The IRS has provided a list of red flags to watch out for should you receive a communication about the EIP. Cybercriminals may:

- Emphasize the words "Stimulus Check" or "Stimulus Payment." The official term is economic impact payment.
- Ask the taxpayer to sign over their economic impact payment check to them.
- Ask by phone, email, text or social media for verification of personal and/or banking information saying that the information is needed to receive or speed up their economic impact payment.
- Suggest that they can get a tax refund or economic impact payment faster by working on the taxpayer's behalf. This scam could be conducted by social media or even in person.
- Mail the taxpayer a bogus check, perhaps in an odd amount, then tell the taxpayer to call a number or verify information online in order to cash it.

If you need additional information or resources, the best place to get it is straight from the IRS. Visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments for updates on the program or assistance.

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