



LEGAL AID
OF THE
BLUEGRASS

COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STIMULUS PAYMENT

THE CARES ACT, SIGNED INTO LAW IN MARCH 2020, IS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES A ONE-TIME PAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

How much is the payment?

- Adult individuals can receive up to \$1,200 per person, or \$2,400, per couple filing joint tax returns. Each child, under the age of 17 is also eligible for an additional \$500 payment per qualifying child.

Who is eligible?

- In order to qualify for the full payment, you must:
 - Have income below \$75,000, if you are a single person, you may qualify for a reduced payment if your income is below \$99,000
 - Have income below \$112,500, if you are filing taxes as head of household, you may qualify for a reduced payment if your income is below \$136,500
 - Have income below \$150,000, if you are married and file taxes jointly, you may qualify for a reduced payment if your income is below \$198,000
- Non-tax filers including Social Security and SSI recipients, railroad retirees, VA pension recipients, as well as people who do not make enough money to file taxes will receive a payment

Who is not eligible?

- Some people will not be eligible to receive the payment. Those individuals include:
 - Single tax filers with income above \$99,000
 - Head of Household tax filers with income above \$136,500
 - Joint tax filers with income above \$198,000
 - Dependent children age 17 or older
 - Dependent full time college students up to age 24, unless filing jointly with a spouse
 - Dependent adults that have been claimed on someone else's tax return
 - People who do not have a valid Social Security number
 - Nonresident Aliens

**Dependent is defined as a person that lived with you for 1/2 of the year or longer and relied on you for 1/2, or more, of their support.*

How do I get the stimulus payment?

- Most people will automatically receive their payment. The following categories of individuals do not need to take any further action in order to receive the payment.
 - Tax filers that filed in 2018 or 2019
 - Social Security retirement or disability recipients
 - VA pension recipients
 - railroad retirees
 - SSI recipients
- **If you are new to new to SS benefits, including SSI, in 2020, you will need to fill out the IRS form. If you typically do not file taxes and are raising minor children, you will need to complete an IRS form in order to receive your full payment. If you receive benefits from SSA or railroad retirement, your deadline to request the additional payment for children is 12:00pm on April 22. SSI and VA recipients will have some additional time, but should complete the IRS form as soon as possible.**

How do I get help with filing the tax form to get the payment?

- If you are aged 60+ or if you receive Medicare benefits, the Medicare SHIP Program, located within Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, will provide help at no cost. You can call **1-866-516-3051** for assistance. If you do not qualify for our assistance, you can visit: www.irs.gov/coronavirus. In order to file for your payment, you will need:
 - Full name
 - Date of birth
 - Social Security number
 - Address
 - Full name and Social Security numbers for your dependent children
 - Bank account information, if you want direct deposit
 - Email address

How can I spend my stimulus payment?

- The stimulus payment is considered a tax refund. As such, the payment is not considered income for the purposes of receiving or retaining certain benefits such as SSI, SNAP or long term care Medicaid. However, you must spend the money in ways that do not place you at risk of losing benefits. Giving the money away to a charity or to a family member may place you at risk of losing your much needed benefits. Therefore, you should spend the money wisely by paying on expenses or for items that benefit you personally and you should keep track of how you spent the money. If you receive SSI, you can only have \$2000 in resources to qualify. The stimulus payment will be counted as a resource if it is not spent within 12 months.

If I have a payee that manages my money, can my payee spend the payment without my permission?

- This payment is a tax refund and is not considered a Social Security payment. Therefore, the payee has no legal right to distribute this money on your behalf without your permission.

Why would I not receive a payment if I met the eligibility guidelines?

- You may not receive a payment if:
 - You did not provide the right bank account information for a direct deposit
 - You owe back child support