STIMULUS CHECKS

NWCLC WEBINAR SERIES:
HOW TO SURVIVE THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19

May 12, 2020
Today's Agenda

Background of Economic Impact Payment
Eligibility
How to Get Your Check
Common Issues
Avoiding Stimulus Check Scams
What are economic impact payments?

On March 27, 2020, the federal government enacted legislation to send most Americans up to $1,200 per individual. The purpose of the economic impact payments, aka stimulus checks, is to help offset the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
$216.7 BILLION

HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO 127.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN FEDERAL STIMULUS CHECKS
$33,000,000

IN ESTIMATED STIMULUS CHECK FUNDS STILL NEED TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE IRS
Who is eligible?

- U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien.
- Under income limits.
- Not a dependent of another taxpayer.
- Work eligible Social Security number.
Who is NOT eligible?

- Your adjusted gross income is greater than: $99,000 if your filing status was single or married filing separately; $136,500 for head of household; or $198,000 if your filing status was married filing jointly.
- You can be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s return. For example, this would include a child, student or older dependent who can be claimed on a parent’s return.
- You do not have a valid Social Security number.
- You are a nonresident alien.
How much will you receive?

If you are **married** and file **jointly** and earn less than $150,000:

$2,400

If you are **single** or **married filing separately** and earn less than $75,000:

$1,200

**PLUS** $500 per qualifying child
Who is a qualifying child?

You will receive an additional $500 Payment for each qualifying child you claimed on your tax return being used to calculate your Payment. Here’s the criteria provided by the IRS:

- **Relationship** to the individual who is eligible for the Payment: The child is the son, daughter, stepchild, eligible foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, grandchild, niece, or nephew).
- **Child's age**: The child was under age 17 at the end of the taxable year and is younger than the individual eligible for the Payment or permanently or totally disabled.
- **Dependent of the individual** who is eligible for the Payment: The child is claimed as a dependent on the 2018 or 2019 tax return or entered on the IRS online tool.
- **Child's citizenship**: The child is a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. resident alien.
- **Child's Residency**: Child must have lived with the individual eligible for the Payment for more than half the tax year.
- **Support for Child**: Child must not provide over half of own support for the tax year.
- **Child’s taxpayer identification number**: The child has a valid Social Security Number or an Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number (ATIN).
What do I need to do to receive my stimulus check?

Nothing if you have already filed your 2018 or 2019 tax return or if you receive social security benefits.
What do I need to do to receive my stimulus check?

If you are not required to file a tax return in 2018 and 2019 and do not receive social security benefits, you must provide your information to the IRS to receive a stimulus check:

How will I receive my stimulus check?

Direct deposit for 2018 or 2019 tax return? Bank account provided on the most recent tax return. You cannot change your account information.

No direct deposit but filed 2018 or 2019? Mailed to the address on file.

Receive social security? Same way that you receive your benefits.
What should I do if I haven't received my stimulus check?

File your taxes if you're required to.

Check your mail. The IRS will begin preparing millions of paper checks that will begin arriving through late May and into June.

Check your status online at https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment
Why won't "Get My Payment" work for me?

- You didn't file your 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- Your 2018 or 2019 tax return hasn't been fully processed yet.
- The IRS website doesn't have your information available yet.
- The IRS website just isn't working.
What if I think I received the wrong amount?

**Per the IRS:** If you did not receive the full amount to which you believe you are entitled, you will be able to claim the additional amount when you file your 2020 tax return. This is particularly important for individuals who may be entitled to the additional $500 per qualifying child dependent payments.
What if there's an issue with my payment?

The IRS will send a letter to taxpayers about 15 days after a payment is sent letting them know how it was made and how to report issues.
Here's what your letter will look like
How do I avoid Stimulus Check scams?

Remember:

- The IRS will not call, email, or text you.
- Do not share your personal information via phone, email, or text.
- You do not have to pay anyone to receive your stimulus check.
- You probably won't be required to pay back the IRS if you received too much.
Can creditors take my stimulus funds?


Past-due child support? Yes. You will receive notification if your stimulus check is offset due to past-due child support.
What else should I know?

- Guidance is **changing** daily.
- Not everything online is **true**.
- It's **difficult to contact** the IRS right now.
- Check the **IRS website** for updates:
QUESTIONS?
NEXT ON THE NWCLC WEBINAR SERIES:

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS DURING COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 AT 6 P.M.

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