



**THIS TIP SHEET IS INTENDED TO HELP YOUTH WHO HAD CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT UNDERSTAND HOW TO OBTAIN A STIMULUS PAYMENT. WE CANNOT HELP YOU OBTAIN IT OR GIVE YOU ADVICE ON YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION**



## 1. IS THE GOVERNMENT REALLY SENDING EVERYONE MONEY BECAUSE OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH CRISIS?

The federal government is sending **MOST** adults a stimulus payment. People who earn less than \$75,000 will get \$1,200, plus \$500 for each of their children under age 16. Unfortunately, not everyone will get the money.

## 2. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE STIMULUS PAYMENT?

If you are over 18 and can, or did file a tax return, then you are probably eligible.

### BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE IF:

- ▶ Someone else claimed you as a dependent on their taxes.
- ▶ You are not a US Citizen and do not have a Social Security Number.

### “DEPENDENT”

This means different things in child welfare than it does for taxes. For tax purposes, a child or an adult can be claimed as a “dependent” by a person (usually a parent or relative) who supported them in the tax year. People claim dependents to get more money back in their taxes.

### HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER SOMEONE CLAIMED ME ON THEIR TAXES?

The only way to know is to ask them, If that is not possible, you should file a 2019 tax return. If you are eligible you will get the payment.

### I AM AN ADULT, HOW CAN SOMEONE CLAIM ME AS A DEPENDENT ON THEIR TAXES?

If you lived in their home more than six months and they provided more than half of your living costs, they might be able to claim you. There are additional tax rules that apply.

## 3. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET A STIMULUS PAYMENT?

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY FILED EITHER YOUR 2018 OR 2019 TAXES YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TO GET A PAYMENT. BUT** you can make sure the IRS has current bank account information so you can get your money faster. Also, if you moved or changed banks since the last time you filed taxes see questions 4 & 5 to make sure your money makes it to you!

### “FILING TAXES”

A tax return is the form you file with the IRS that reports how much money you earned and calculates how much money you will receive back or what you might owe.

### “TAX YEAR”

A calendar year (from January to December) is the tax year. You file your 2019 taxes in 2020.

### IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY FILED YOUR 2018 OR 2019 TAXES, YOU MUST FILE A TAX RETURN

If are not ready to file your 2019 taxes yet, you may want to go ahead and file with the information that you have. If you had a child after you filed your 2018 taxes you will get the \$500 stimulus payment for dependents but you must file 2019 taxes for it to happen. You can amend it later when you have additional information.

**IF YOU DON'T NEED TO FILE A TAX RETURN BECAUSE YOU DON'T MAKE VERY MUCH MONEY,** click here for the **IRS “NON-FILER” FORM**, which you need to file.

For basic information on filing taxes, [CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR INCOME TAX TIP SHEET.](#)

## **IF I GET SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) AND DON'T FILE A TAX RETURN DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO GET A STIMULUS PAYMENT?**

Yes, click here for the [IRS "NON-FILER" FORM](#), which you must file. When you hear on the news that Social Security recipients do not have to do anything, they are talking about people who receive tax form "SSA-1099." SSI recipients do not get a form SSA-1099.

## **4. HOW WILL I GET THE MONEY?**

**THE IRS WILL DEPOSIT THE STIMULUS PAYMENT IN THE BANK ACCOUNT YOU USED ON YOUR LAST TAX FILING OR IN AN ACCOUNT THAT YOU PROVIDE TO IT NOW.** If the IRS does not have your bank account information, it will **MAIL** the stimulus check to you.

**IF YOU WANT THE MONEY DIRECTLY DEPOSITED IN YOUR ACCOUNT** but you

- Do not already have bank account information on file with the IRS;
- Think the wrong information is on file with the IRS; or
- Aren't sure whether the IRS has the right information

Then you should **PROVIDE THE IRS WITH THE CORRECT INFORMATION** click [HERE](#) to go to the "Get My Payment" portal.

**Note -if the money is deposited into a bank account where you owe money to the bank, you should expect that the bank will take what is owed out of your payment.**

**Direct deposit will come much faster than checks.**

**Try to provide the IRS with your bank account information as soon as possible.**

## **5. IF I GET THE STIMULUS PAYMENT BY CHECK, HOW DOES THE IRS KNOW WHERE TO MAIL CHECK?**

It will use the address from your most recent tax form **UNLESS** you updated their records. If you moved after your last tax filing, be sure to update your address!

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PERMANENT ADDRESS** identify a trusted person or entity who will permit you to use their address.

### **HOW TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS WITH THE IRS**

Use [IRS FORM 8822](#) to update your address. You will need to print and mail the form **OR** you can call the IRS at **800-829-1040** Be prepared to give your

- Full Name
- Old Address
- New Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number, ITIN or EIN

## **6. WHEN WILL I GET MY MONEY?**

The IRS will start depositing the payments in mid-April **IF IT HAS YOUR BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION.** The IRS will start sending paper checks in Mid-May and pay the lowest income people first. But it might take at least four months for everyone to get a paper check. That is why it is important to get a bank account and set up direct deposit with the IRS. The quicker you do that, the quicker you get the money!

## 7. HOW CAN I CHECK THE STATUS OF MY MONEY?

Click [HERE](#) to check on the status of your money. The IRS will send you notice after it directly deposits or mails your stimulus payment.

## 8. WHAT IF I DON'T GET MONEY WHEN EVERYONE ELSE DOES?

If you get a notice but didn't get the money, there will be a phone number for you to call. The notice will be mailed to the address they have on file, so again it is important to make sure the IRS has your current address.

## 9. WHAT CAN I USE THIS MONEY FOR?

You can use the money for any purpose. The government will not ask you what you used it for.

## 10. WHAT IF I ALREADY RECEIVE SSI, UNEMPLOYMENT, PESS OR OTHER MONEY?

The fact that you receive money from other sources will not affect your right to get the stimulus payment.

## 11. WHAT HAPPENS IF I OWE THE IRS MONEY FOR BACK TAXES? OR I OWE MONEY ON FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS?

Nothing. Your stimulus payment will not be reduced if you owe for your taxes or federal student loans.

## 12. WILL I HAVE TO PAY ANY OF THE MONEY BACK?

**NO.** The money is for you to spend and you will not have to pay it back and it will not reduce the refund you get next year!

## 13. WILL I HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON THE MONEY THAT I GET?

No. This money is not taxable income. It does not get added to the amount of money you will earn and have to pay taxes on when you file your taxes in 2021.

## 14. WILL THE PAYMENT AFFECT MY SNAP BENEFITS OR BENEFITS THAT MAKE ME REPORT MY INCOME?

No. The stimulus payment will not count as income for SNAP, TANF, WIC, or ACA premium credits.

## 15. WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR FILING TO GET THE STIMULUS CHECK IF I HAVEN'T FILED 2018 OR 2019 TAXES?

There is no deadline. The longer you take to file your taxes, the longer it will take to get the stimulus payment. If you didn't file 2018 taxes and don't file 2019 taxes, you can get the stimulus money as part of your 2020 taxes when you file in 2021.

## 16. WHAT HAPPENS IF I OWE BACK CHILD SUPPORT?

If you are behind in your payments and you pay child support through Florida Department of Revenue your stimulus payment may be reduced or eliminated based on what you owe.

**NOTICE:** This publication is intended for use as a general reference source and is not meant to provide legal opinions or advice, and is not a substitute for the advice of counsel. We have used our best efforts in preparing the material in this publication, but we do not warrant that it is complete or accurate and do not assume, and hereby disclaim, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein.

## EXAMPLES

### EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

18 year-old Anna is in Extended Foster Care living in an apartment while she finishes high school. She has never worked or filed a tax return. Anna **IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment, **BUT SHE WILL HAVE TO FILE A TAX RETURN TO GET IT.**

### PESS

20 year-old Pat lives on PESS and Pell Grants. Pat has never filed an income tax form. Pat **IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment, **BUT HE WILL HAVE TO FILE A TAX RETURN TO GET IT.**

## YOUTH LIVING WITH FAMILY

19 year-old Tom lives with his Aunt. He works and goes to school. He contributes to household expenses and his Aunt does not claim him as a dependent on her taxes. Tom filed a 2018 tax return. Tom **IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment and **DOES NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING TO GET IT.**

20 year-old Marco is in college and has never worked. He lives at home with his adoptive parents who claim his as a dependent on their taxes. Marco **IS NOT ELIGIBLE** for a payment.

19 year-old Nicole lives with her Aunt. Nicole has never filed an income tax form. Her Aunt claimed Nicole as a dependent on her 2019 taxes. Nicole **IS NOT ELIGIBLE** for a payment.

## IMMIGRANT YOUTH

20 year-old Maya is awaiting her Special Immigrant Juvenile visa that she applied for 3 years ago. She has a work permit and Social Security number. Maya **IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment.

19 year-old Javier is awaiting his immigration hearing. He does not have a Social Security number. Javier **IS NOT ELIGIBLE** for a payment.

20 year-old Franco is an immigrant and does not have legal status. He has a tax-payer ID number and has taxes withheld from his pay. Franco **IS NOT ELIGIBLE** for a payment.

## OTHER EXAMPLES

18 year-old Mike lived with his father for more than six months in 2018 and was claimed on his father's 2018 taxes. Mike moved out in early 2019 and is now living on his own and will file his own tax return. Mike **IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment, **BUT HE WILL HAVE TO FILE A TAX RETURN TO GET IT.**

22 year-old Clarisse lives with her 18 month-old daughter. In 2019 her daughter lived with a relative for 9 months. That relative declared Clarisse's daughter as a dependent on his 2019 taxes. **CLARISE IS ELIGIBLE** for a payment, **BUT WILL HAVE TO A FILE A TAX RETURN TO GET THE PAYMENT.** While she cannot claim her daughter for 2019, she can claim her daughter and get the \$500 when she files her 2020 taxes next year.