

# The CARES Act

Relief for Individuals and Families: Rebate Checks



This document is intended to help Tacoma Housing Authority staff explain the eligibility and process for families to receive their stimulus check under the CARES Act. The general public may also use this as a guide to get their stimulus checks.

## What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a \$2.2 trillion economic relief plan to assist tens of millions of American households affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It includes stimulus payments to individuals, expanded unemployment coverage, student loan changes and more. Simply put, the rebate is a direct payment intended to assist low and middle-income individuals and families.

## Who is eligible to receive the stimulus checks provided by the CARES Act?

### *Eligible Households*

- Eligibility will be determined by the household's 2019 tax return, and for households that did not file in 2019, their 2018 tax return will be used. See the section "Information for those who have NOT filed taxes for 2019 or 2018" if you did not file your tax returns for 2018 or 2019.
- Individuals are eligible for the rebate *only* if they and their listed household members have a valid social security number.

### *Ineligible Households*

- As listed in the household's tax return, *any* individual without a valid social security number will disqualify the entire household for the rebate. An ITIN is not considered a valid identification number for this purpose.
- Individuals who are claimed as dependents on another taxpayer's return are ineligible. For example, elderly adults, students or disabled adults claimed as dependents on another person's tax return will not receive a rebate.
- Usually, students under the age of 24 are considered dependents if a parent pays for at least half of their expenses.
- Individuals who owe child support may see their rebates go to the Division of Child Support, although this is not true for 100% of these instances. To learn more about how this may impact your rebate eligibility, please visit the Division of Child Support's website ([www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/division-child-support](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/division-child-support)).

## How much money can I expect?

- The CARES Act provides eligible individuals with a \$1,200 (\$2,400 for joint filers) refund check plus \$500 per qualifying child.
- The refund begins to phase out if the individual's adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers and \$112,500 for head of household filers). The credit is completely phased out for individuals with no qualifying children if their AGI exceeds \$99,000 (\$198,000 for joint filers and \$136,500 for head of household filers).
  - This is a one-time payment. The federal government may decide on more payments in the future.

- This rebate is not taxable and is not considered as income. Eligibility for programs like SNAP or other federal public benefits will not be impacted for those who receive the rebate.

## What is required to receive payment?

- Families do not need to sign-up to receive a rebate. The rebates will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the tax return filed. For households who did not opt-in for direct deposit in their previous tax returns, a check will be mailed. Here's how to update your deposit information below:
  - **Direct deposit:** Use the Get My Payment application (coming mid-April) to let us know your bank account information if we don't have your direct deposit information and we haven't sent your payment.
  - **Check payment:** If you moved since you last filed, [let us know your new mailing address](#).
  - **Keep up to date by visiting:** <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

## Information for those who have NOT filed taxes for 2019 or 2018

- **For low-income households that typically do not file taxes**
  - Click here to see if this pertains to you: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>
  - Click here to be taken directly to the free, online form to file for your rebate: <https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/EconomicImpactPayment>
- For those who owe in taxes, they will not be required to pay what they owe in order to receive their rebate, *except for individuals who owe child support*.
- Generally, for those filing their 2019 returns, the IRS has provided some relief to some of their tax requirements. [Click here to review](#) and share as applicable.

## When will I get the payment?

The Treasury Secretary said most people can expect to receive their rebates by April 17. However, for those who have not filed in 2018 or 2019 – they may not receive their payments up until July 15<sup>th</sup> based on when they have filed their tax return.

You can also update your banking/deposit information here and start filing your simple tax return: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

## Beware of Scams

No one from the IRS will be reaching out to individuals by phone, email, mail or in person asking for any kind of information to complete their economic impact payment. If you are contacted by phone, text message, social media, email, or even in person about your payment or personal information, you can forward that communication to: [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov)

All payments will be processed automatically by the IRS and deposited via direct deposit based on the bank information of that person's last tax filing, social benefits forms, or by mail. If the individual wants to change where their payment is deposited, they must do so through the IRS secured portal that will be available in mid-April. Seniors, people with disabilities and retirees are generally most targeted when it comes to these schemes.

**For the most current updates check on the IRS's Coronavirus Tax Relief Page:**

[www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)

**To review the full Cares Act as released by Congress, follow this link:**

[www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text#toc-id0B379ADDB9CE401FA5F217393EC9B296](http://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text#toc-id0B379ADDB9CE401FA5F217393EC9B296)

Table 1. 2019 Filing Requirements Chart for Most Taxpayers

IF your filing status is...	AND at the end of 2019 you were...*	THEN file a return if your gross income was at least...**
single	under 65	\$12,200
	65 or older	\$13,850
head of household	under 65	\$18,350
	65 or older	\$20,000
married, filing jointly***	under 65 (both spouses)	\$24,400
	65 or older (one spouse)	\$25,700
	65 or older (both spouses)	\$27,000
married, filing separately	any age	\$5
qualifying widow(er)	under 65	\$24,400
	65 or older	\$25,700

\* If you were born before January 2, 1955, you're considered to be 65 or older at the end of 2019. (If your spouse died in 2019, see [Death of spouse](#), later. If you're preparing a return for someone who died in 2019, see [Death of taxpayer](#), later.

\*\* **Gross income** means all income you receive in the form of money, goods, property, and services that isn't exempt from tax, including any income from sources outside the United States or from the sale of your main home (even if you can exclude part or all of it). **Don't** include any social security benefits unless (a) you're married filing a separate return and you lived with your spouse at any time during 2019, or (b) one-half of your social security benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if married filing jointly). If (a) or (b) applies, see the Form 1040 and 1040-SR instructions to figure the taxable part of social security benefits you must include in gross income. Gross income includes gains, but not losses, reported on Form 8949 or Schedule D. Gross income from a business means, for example, the amount on Schedule C, line 7; or Schedule F, line 9. But in figuring gross income, don't reduce your income by any losses, including any loss on Schedule C, line 7; or Schedule F, line 9.

\*\*\* If you didn't live with your spouse at the end of 2019 (or on the date your spouse died) and your gross income was at least \$5, you must file a return regardless of your age.