

Financial Strategies to Get You Through the Pandemic Fact Sheet Number 2

Economic Impact Payments

The IRS has detailed information for each of the three Economic Impact Payments. The IRS is the source of most of the information included in this fact sheet. If your questions aren't answered by this fact sheet, you will probably find the answers here:

- Payment #1 – CARES Act
 - <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>
 - Español <https://www.irs.gov/es/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>
- Payment #2 – Tax Relief Act of 2020
 - <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/second-eip-faqs>
 - Español <https://www.irs.gov/es/coronavirus/second-eip-faqs>
- Payment #3 – American Rescue Plan
 - <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-third-economic-impact-payment-topic-b-eligibility-and-calculation-of-the-third-payment>
 - Español <https://www.irs.gov/es/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-third-economic-impact-payment-topic-b-eligibility-and-calculation-of-the-third-payment>

How to get your Economic Impact Payments, including any additional money for which you qualify

There have been three separate Economic Impact Payments since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. If you haven't received all three payments, it's not too late!

[File your 2020 taxes to claim](#) (Español):

- Payments you didn't receive.
- Additional money if the payments you received were smaller than what you were actually eligible for based on your 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- Additional money if your 2020 tax return qualifies you for more than your 2018 or 2019 return did.

There are several reasons you might qualify for more money from the Economic Impact Payments based on your 2020 return than you received based on your 2018 or 2019 tax returns. The same thing could happen next year when you file your 2021 taxes: you

might qualify for more than you did based on your 2019 or 2020 tax return. For example:

- You had a baby in 2020 or 2021.
- You had too much income in 2019, but earned less in 2020 or 2021. Or you had too much income in 2020, but you earn less in 2021.
- You were supporting a child who was older than 17 in 2018 or 2019, so you did not receive payments 1 or 2 for them. If that child now supports himself, he can file his own tax return for 2020 and claim the Recovery Rebate Credit.
- You get Social Security benefits and don't usually file taxes. The payment you received was just for you, but you also have a spouse or dependents for whom you can receive a payment.

Next year, if your 2021 tax return qualifies you for any additional money from the third Economic Impact Payment., you can claim it by filing your 2021 tax return. (See below for **Reasons you might be eligible for more.**)

The payments won't cause other problems for you. If you have hesitated because of these concerns, don't worry!

- You don't have to have a job to qualify. There is [no minimum income requirement](#).
- Payments [do not affect eligibility](#) (See Question J2; [Español](#)) for federal assistance or benefit programs. Exception: if you save the payment, after 12 months it could count as an asset.
 - A [report from Cornell University](#) provides a detailed report about where you can verify that the payments will not impact many different types of benefits, including HUD rent subsidies, SSI, SNAP, and more. ([Español](#))
- Payments are not taxable income. ([IRS Q&A Question J2](#)) ([Español](#))
- If you are eligible for less based on your 2020 return than what you already received, you do not have to pay it back. ([IRS Q & A Question J3](#)) ([Español](#))
- The [deadline for filing](#) has been extended to May 17. And if you are getting a refund, you can file after May 17 without any penalty.

Who is eligible?

You are [eligible to receive these payments](#) ([Español](#)) if you meet these three criteria as well as the **income limits shown in the table**.

- You are a US citizen or US Resident Alien
 - For married couples where only one spouse has a Social Security number, you can receive a partial payment.
- You have a Social Security number that is valid for employment
- You cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

Get Answers to Your Questions

Answers to most questions about the payments can be found on the IRS website.

- Questions about the 3rd payment, which started arriving in March 2021
 - Eligibility, info for those who don't usually file a tax return, what's different compared to the first two payments, and links to additional information: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/third-economic-impact-payment>
 - Use the Get My Payment tool to find out the status of your payment. <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
 - If you have questions about payment status, the address or bank account used to deliver your payment, using the Get My Payment tool, or other questions, check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) .<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment-frequently-asked-questions>
- Questions about earlier payments
 - Information about the first and second payments is no longer available through the Get My Payment tool. To see information about your individual payments, view or create your online account [view or create your online account](#) or look for the notices that were mailed to you following each payment, IRS Notices 1444 and 1444-B.
 - 1st payment <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>
 - 2nd payment <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/second-eip-faqs>
 - Claiming missing payments or additional amounts for which you qualify with the Recovery Rebate Credit on your 2020 tax form <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit-frequently-asked-questions>

Special Situations

For married couples where only one spouse has a Social Security number, you can receive a partial payment. See Question #1 and read to the end for updates.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-first-economic-impact-payment-topic-a-eligibility>

Incarcerated persons can now get payments - see Q7

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-first-economic-impact-payment-topic-a-eligibility>

Payments to deceased individuals: see Question #5, how to return payments sent in error, and claim payments for people who died during 2020

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-first-economic-impact-payment-topic-a-eligibility>

Comparing the Three Economic Impact Payments

Economic Impact Payments		
	Source	Payments sent starting...
Payment #1	CARES Act	April 2020
Payment #2	Tax Relief Act of 2020	December 2020
Payment #3 2021	American Rescue Plan	March 2021

Each program had a different payment amount. Only dependents under age 17 were eligible for the first two, but all dependents qualified for the third payment.

Payment Amounts			
	Taxpayer (Filer)	Spouse	Dependents, per person
Payment #1	\$1200	\$1200	\$500 if under age 17
Payment #2	\$600	\$600	\$600 if under age 17
Payment #3 2021	\$1400	\$1400	\$1400 for all dependents

Payments were generated based on information from the most recent tax return that had been filed. The first and third payments began during the tax filing season. If the taxpayer had already filed that year, payments were based on the people, their ages, and income listed on that return. Otherwise, the information was based on the prior year's return. For example, if a taxpayer had already filed her 2019 return before Payment #1 was

calculated, that was used to calculate her payment. If she had not yet filed her 2019 return, the payments would have been based on the information on her 2018 return.

Which year's tax return is used?			
	Initial payment	Additional \$, if any	If you didn't receive the full amount:
Payment #1	2018 or 2019 if already filed	2020*	Final opportunity to claim or receive additional money compared to 2018 or 2019 is on your 2020 tax return.
Payment #2	2019	2020*	Same as Payment #1
Payment #3 2021	2019 or 2020 if already filed	2021*	File your 2020 tax return by 9/1/2021 to receive any additional payment compared to 2019. Final opportunity to claim is on your 2021 tax return.
* If you would have received less money based on this tax return than what you already received, you do not have to pay it back.			