



Economic Assistance Payments: Most Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Congress proposing to make economic assistance payments (EAPs) to Americans?

The public health and economic consequences of COVID-19 are significant. These cash distributions help Americans afford what they need during this public health crisis, as many may be experiencing a significant cash crunch.

When will the cash be distributed?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) will work together to deliver cash quickly. For people who filed a federal income tax return in 2018 or 2019, or who currently receive certain Social Security benefits, the distributions will be automatic. Payment processing will be based on payment or address information already on file with the IRS or the SSA.

Why do employed people get EAPs?

Countless Americans are experiencing wage or shift reductions, in addition to unemployment. State UC programs will do the best they can to handle the surge in need, but not all people will realize they are eligible for expanded and enhanced Unemployment Compensation (UC), or be able to access UC benefits in a timely way. It is impossible to predict now, with any degree of precision, who will need assistance. EAPs will be distributed broadly at the outset to ensure these distributions get where they are needed, and that they get there in time.

How large are the EAPs?

The amount of the payment depends on family size. The payment is \$1,500 for each adult taxpayer, and \$1,500 per child, up to three children. Thus, the maximum EAP a family can receive is \$7,500.

Do EAPs need to be repaid?

Only if the taxpayer's 2020 income is above a certain level. Single taxpayers whose incomes are in excess of \$75,000; heads of household whose incomes are in excess of \$112,500, and joint filers whose incomes are in excess of \$150,000 will have to repay some or all of the EAP on their tax returns. Taxpayers can elect to make these repayments over the course of three years.

How will EAPs be delivered?

It depends. EAPs will be delivered automatically—by the IRS or SSA—to most Americans. When available, electronic direct deposit will be used in place of mailing a physical check.

Many individuals don't need to file a tax return and are not current Social Security beneficiaries. Are non-filers eligible for EAPs?

Yes. There are millions of people who are not required to file tax returns. Examples include low-income workers, certain Social Security beneficiaries, and those who receive veterans' disability compensation, pension or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The IRS will establish procedures for non-filers who are not Social Security beneficiaries to access EAPs. Additionally, the IRS is instructed to conduct outreach with other government, state, and local agencies, federal partners, and community-based nonprofit organizations that regularly interface with non-filers to ensure that these individuals are aware of the ability to claim their EAPs.

How will a person who has recently moved access EAPs?

The IRS and SSA will determine efficient payment delivery systems for everyone entitled to EAPs.