

CARES Act Relief Payment

As per the CARES Act of 2020, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are providing payment relief to individuals in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Domestic violence advocates have raised a number of concerns about barriers that survivors will face accessing the funds to which they are entitled. Unfortunately, at this time, the IRS has not provided processes to ensure survivors can access their funds when they are issued using the information on a recently filed joint income tax return filed with an abuser. NNEDV and our partners continue to work with the Administration. In the meantime, we have outlined the existing processes that help individuals secure their funds.

Tax Return Filers

Direct Deposit:

- For those who qualify for the payment and listed direct deposit information on their 2018 or 2019 income tax returns, the first payments were sent out electronically using the information on the most recently filed 2018 or 2019 tax return, starting the week of April 13th.
- For those who qualify for the payment and did not list direct deposit information on their 2018 or 2019 tax returns, you can inform the IRS of your current account and routing number through their online portal "[Filers: Get Your Payment](#)" so that your payment may be directly deposited into your account.

Mail/Paper Checks:

- The IRS will begin issuing checks in late April, starting with households with the lowest adjusted gross income. It's expected to take up to 20 weeks to issue all checks. The checks will be mailed to the last known address for the taxpayer, which is usually the address listed on the most recently filed tax return.

Non-filers

Many individuals are not required to file tax returns because their income is too low or much of their income is not taxable; however, most of these individuals would qualify for the \$1,200 relief payment. Non-filers can enter their bank account information using this link "[Non-Filers: Enter Your Payment Info Here](#)" so that the IRS can issue the EIP electronically.

Note: You should not use this application if you began receiving any of the following forms of income prior to January 1, 2020: Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), survivor benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Recipients of Veterans Affairs benefits, Railroad Retirement and Survivor Benefits.

Payment Information

If you are expecting a direct deposit but you have not yet received it, you can track your payment through the IRS website at "[Get My Payment.](#)"

If the link above indicates that your payment has been processed, you cannot change your bank account information for this direct deposit.

If the bank account that your last refund was deposited into is no longer active, the EIP will be sent by paper check instead and mailed to the address the IRS last had on file for you.

Address Information

If you haven't yet filed your 2019 taxes, doing so now and filing electronically is likely your best option to update the IRS of your new address.

If you have filed and need to change your address, or you think the IRS may have the wrong address on file for you, you should update your address with the U.S. Postal Service as soon as possible.

Looking Ahead

Unfortunately, we know that many survivors of domestic violence will see their relief funds be deposited into accounts to which they no longer have access because it was shared with a former partner. The IRS has yet to directly address this issue. It is unlikely that the IRS will pull funds back from an account to which they were incorrectly deposited.

Advocates and attorneys around the country are working on this issue. Here are some strategies that survivors can discuss with their advocates to see what might work best for them:

- File a superseding, separate income tax return, to preserve your claim to the Economic Impact Payment (EIP), even if the IRS issued the EIP incorrectly to account from jointly filed 2019 return.
- If an abusive partner is wrongfully claiming dependent children on their tax returns, survivors can still try claiming dependent children on their tax returns as long as they are eligible, even if the other party claims them.
- For more on issues related to taxes, click [HERE](#) to see the Center for Survivor Agency and Justice's [Tax Newsletter](#).