

# Economic Impact Payments (EIPs):

## A Summary for Social Security Beneficiaries and Their Rep. Payees

### What is an EIP?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides that qualified individuals will receive a \$1,200 EIP (also frequently called stimulus checks or stimulus payments) in order to help ease financial hardship caused by the current pandemic.

### How will I receive my EIP?

If you filed a tax return in 2019 or 2018, your EIP will be automatically sent to you. If you did not file a tax return *and* are a Social Security recipient, you should receive your EIP in the same form that you receive your monthly benefits payment. You may receive your payment on a pre-paid debit card. According to the IRS, your debit card will arrive in a plain envelope from *Money Network Cardholder Services*.

### When will I receive my EIP?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who filed a tax return in 2019 or 2018 *and* Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability (SSDI) beneficiaries should have received their payments by the end of April 2020. In May 2020, the IRS *began* sending EIPs to SSI recipients who did not file a tax return in 2019 or 2018. If you have not yet received your EIP, you may check the status of your payment by using the following tracker provided by the IRS: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

### How does an EIP impact my benefits and program eligibility?

Per the SSA, an EIP is not considered income for SSI recipients and does not count against your \$2,000 resource limit for twelve months from the date you receive it. Your EIP is not considered income under Medicaid rules. As a result, if you are in a nursing facility, your stimulus money also cannot be used to increase the cost of your monthly stay. As with SSI, your EIP does not count against your Medicaid asset limit for twelve months. EIPs also do not affect TANF or SNAP eligibility.

### Does an EIP belong to a beneficiary or their representative payee?

**EIPs belong to the beneficiary and NOT their payee; a beneficiary is entitled to have full control over the use of their \$1,200.** Per the SSA, a payee should discuss the EIP with the beneficiaries they serve and may assist with saving the payment or purchasing specific items, but *must allow the beneficiary to independently spend their EIP* if they request to do so. For more information, please see the related IRS alert at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USIRS/bulletins/29111db>.

**Contact ACDL at 1-800-927-2260 or [center@azdisabilitylaw.org](mailto:center@azdisabilitylaw.org) now if your representative payee is withholding your EIP or that of another beneficiary.**



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