



CARES Act

FAQs: Direct Financial Help for Workers and Families

When will I receive my check?

- The IRS will be able to move fastest for people who have filed 2019 tax returns with direct deposit information. The timeline will vary depending on filing status and if the IRS sends your check in the mail or through a direct deposit. Social Security recipients who aren't required to file taxes will automatically receive their checks through the IRS using their Social Security benefit statement form SSA-1099 or form RRB-1099. If you have not filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) will provide updates on how to receive your check once they become available. Individuals and families are encouraged to file their 2019 tax return to ensure they receive the benefit as quickly as possible.

How much will my check be?

- That depends on what adjusted gross income you reported on your 2019 tax filing, or 2018 if you have yet to file.
- An individual making less than \$75,000 or a head of household making less than \$112,500 will receive the maximum \$1,200 check. A joint-filer making less than \$150,000 will receive the maximum \$2,400. Eligible households with children under the age of 17 will receive \$500 per child.
- If you reported an income higher than the amounts above, the benefit amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 that your income exceeds the threshold. This means the amount will fall to \$0 for single filers with incomes exceeding \$99,000, head of household with one child and incomes exceeding \$146,500, and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.

My income status has changed (retired, lost job, changed jobs) since my 2018 filing. Is there any way I can qualify for individual assistance?

- The IRS will use a taxpayer's 2019 tax return if filed, or in the alternative their 2018 return. For those who have not yet filed taxes in 2018 or 2019, the IRS is asking everyone to file 2019 taxes, regardless of how much you owe, to ensure you receive your check. [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) will soon provide information instructing people on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

I had a higher income in 2018 or 2019 than 2020. Will I still receive a smaller benefit?

- 2019 or 2018 tax returns will be used to calculate the rebate advanced to taxpayers, but taxpayers eligible for a larger rebate based on 2020 income will receive any additional benefit in the 2020 tax season. For example, a single taxpayer with \$100,000 in 2019 income would not receive an advance rebate but would receive the \$1,200 credit on their 2020 tax return if their income for the year fell below \$75,000. On the other hand, a taxpayer with a higher income in 2020 will see the overpayment forgiven.

My income is from Social Security or veteran's disability. Will I still qualify for the individual assistance?

- Yes. Americans whose income is below the limits, including those with no income, or whose income comes entirely from social security or veteran's benefits, are eligible for assistance (so long as they are not a dependent). If a Social Security recipient hasn't filed taxes, the IRS will use their Social Security benefit statement form SSA-1099 or form RRB-1099 to deliver the benefit.

Who qualifies for the extra \$500 dependent benefit?

- Any child under the age of 17, who is a qualifying child for the purposes of the Child Tax Credit is also a qualifying child for the purposes of the benefit.

Do dependents, other than children under 17, qualify a taxpayer for an additional \$500 per dependent?

- No. The additional \$500 per child is limited to children under 17.

Are college students eligible for the benefit?

- College students are only eligible for the benefit if they are not considered a dependent of their parents.

Is the rebate taxable or will I have to pay back any amount if the rebate based on my 2019 return is larger than what it would be if based on my 2020 tax year return?

- No, the rebate is treated like other refundable tax credits, such as the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, and not considered income. Moreover, if the credit amount you qualify based on 2020 income is less than what you qualify for based on your 2019 tax return, it does not have to be paid back.

Visit the [IRS website](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) for more information.