

FOSTER YOUTH / FAMILY

Stimulus Check FAQs

You may have heard of a “Stimulus Check” hitting peoples bank accounts recently. Millions of American’s are expecting this money, and some are unsure whether they qualify. Many are entitled to this money; however, the process is different depending on your circumstances.



WHAT IS A STIMULUS CHECK?

A Stimulus Check is money that the government will give to eligible individuals and families to help them during the COVID-19 crisis

How much stimulus money will I get if I’m eligible for a check?

- You will get \$1,200 if you are single and earn less than \$75,000 before taxes.
- You will get \$2,400 if you are married and file jointly and earn less than \$150,000.
- You will get \$1,200 if you file as head of household and earn less than \$112,500.
- You will get an extra \$500 for every child you claim as a dependent who is 16 or younger (see below)

How do I get a Stimulus Check?

- If you filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, you don’t need to do anything.
- People that signed up for direct deposit will get their checks first—**starting April 13th**.

Otherwise, expect a check in the mail.

- IRS will start mailing physical checks in early May.
- If your income level does not require you to file a tax return, then you need to submit information to the IRS
You can send this information online at: freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/EconomicImpactPayment
- If you get Social Security Insurance (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and you do not have any dependents, you do not need to do anything. The IRS will send you the stimulus check.

NOTE: If you’re on SSI and you have children, you will not receive your child’s payment until next year. If you are on SSI and have children, you can fill out the new tool to get money for you and your children through the same link above.

Can I track my payment? Yes! Get my Payment: <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/irfof-wmsp/notice>

Who is eligible?

- US residents who have a social security number and who are individual or head of household filers.
- **Individual Filers** – are taxpayers, who file their taxes under the status “single.” Single means you are unmarried and do not qualify for any other filing status.
 - Your employer has withheld income tax from your check, or
 - You can claim income over at least \$400 from self-employment or
 - \$12,200 from other employment.
- **Head of Household Filers** –are taxpayers who are single, or unmarried, in the tax year and pay more than half of the household expenses and you claim a child or dependent.
- **Examples:**

What if you are 17 in a group home and worked in 2019? Do I qualify?

- If you are claimed as a dependent by anyone, you will not be eligible.
- If you are not a dependent and you worked in 2019 and filed taxes, you should be eligible.

What if I am 18 in a SILP or THP-NMD and worked in 2019?

- Yes, if no one else claims you as a dependent in 2019, and you meet all other eligibility requirements.

What is a Dependent?

- **You are a dependent** if someone is supporting you or is providing at least half of a person's total support for the year—food, shelter, clothing.
- **I live in an SILP with my mom – am I a dependent?** If your mom supported you for more than half the year (ex: paid rent, bought your food, bought your clothing, etc.), she can claim you as a dependent. If she does not claim you as a dependent because she did not provide those things and you worked to provide more than half of these needs, you are not a dependent.
- **Can I get a stimulus check if I was claimed as a dependent in 2019?** No, you cannot get a stimulus check if anyone claimed you as a dependent in 2019. You are not considered a dependent if you earn more than half of your living.
- **Can I get a stimulus check if I was claimed as a dependent in 2018?** Maybe. Did you earn income in 2019? You may be eligible when you file your 2019 taxes.
- Learn about if you are a dependent or not: www.irs.gov/help/ita/whom-may-i-claim-as-a-dependent

What if I didn't file taxes in 2018 or 2019, and I earned some income from work?

- **If you are single and your income is higher than \$12,200**, file your 2019 tax return as soon as possible.
- **If you are married and your income is higher than \$24,400**, file your 2019 tax return as soon as possible.
- **The deadline to file taxes has been extended to July 15, 2020**, you will be able to get your stimulus check through December 2020.
- **If you have very low-income, but you earned at least \$1 from work**, file your taxes, you may be eligible for additional money through the **CAL Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**: caleitc4me.org/know-it

What if I didn't file taxes in 2018 or 2019 because I didn't earn any money, or am very low-income?

If you were not considered a dependent in 2018/19, use this free online form to request a Stimulus Check:

<https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd>

Can nonminor dependents receive a stimulus check?

Yes, if no one else claims you as a dependent in 2019 and you meet all other eligibility requirements. Adult supporters and advocates should support youth in filing taxes, using the non-filer tool if applicable, and establishing checking accounts (since receiving a paper check could take many months).

Can a Resource Parent Receive a Stimulus Payment for a Foster Child?

If the resource parent filed taxes in 2018 or 2019, claimed a foster child as a dependent, and is otherwise income-eligible for a payment, they will automatically receive an additional payment for that child.

What if I used a tax preparer in 2018 and 2019 to file my taxes, and I don't receive a stimulus check?

Contact the IRS to find out if your check was sent to your bank account, or to a different bank account connected to the tax preparer. The IRS hotline is 1-800-829-1040. If the IRS says the check was sent or deposited to the wrong bank account, call Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles at 800-433-6251 (*A tax preparer is someone you pay to complete and file tax forms: H&R Block or a person you paid to complete your taxes. Turbo Tax is not a tax preparer.*)

COMMON QUESTIONS

Do I need a social security number to get a check?

Yes. If you are married, you will need your and your spouse's social security numbers.

Can I apply for my children, if I don't have a social security number?

No. If you don't have a social security number you can't apply for a stimulus check for your child. Your adult child may be able to get a Stimulus Check, if they have a social security number and were not a dependent in 2019.

Will I have to pay money back if I make more this year than I did last year? No.

Will the Stimulus Check reduce my cash aid, health care, or food assistance benefits?

No. As long as you spend the stimulus money within 12 months it will not affect your CalFresh, SSI, School Meals, Medi-Cal, WIC or CalWORKs benefits.

Will I get less money back from my taxes in 2020 because I get a stimulus check?

No. The stimulus check is a tax credit for 2019 that you will get before filing your taxes for 2020.

I owe child support. Will they take this out of my check?

Yes. Your Stimulus Check will be taken for your child support debt and paid to the parent you owe. The payment will reduce the amount you owe for child support.

I owe student loans. Will they take this out of my check? No.

What do I do if my Stimulus Check is taken by my bank, and I need the money for my rent and food?

If your stimulus check was taken by a bank levy because you owed money to someone, you can file a court document to get the money back. You will fill out these two forms: (1) Claim of Exemption ([form WG-006](#)); and, (2) Financial Statement ([form WG-007](#)).

Where can I get help filing my taxes?

If you made less than \$69,000 in 2019, you could file your taxes for free online at: apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile. You can find help in person (after Safe at Home Orders are lifted) at: freetaxprepla.unitedwayla.org/en/

What if they send my Stimulus for just me, but I have a child who lived with me in 2019?

You can go to the IRS website and add a child to your Stimulus Check. They may have to send it separately: freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd

Will the IRS call me to ask me any questions after I file my taxes or fill out the online form?

No! The IRS will never call you to ask for any of your personal information or your bank account. Do not give this information out to anyone who calls you. **THIS IS A SCAM!**