

# Where is My Stimulus Check?

By Annie Fischer

Many of you have already received your stimulus checks either by direct deposit or by mail, but several of you are still awaiting your check. Here are some helpful facts:

- IRS has a link on their website called “Get My Payment” where you need your Social Security number, birth date and physical address to check the status of your stimulus payment. The results you may see are:
  1. Your payment has been sent to your bank on a certain date.
  2. Your check has been mailed or is set to be mailed on a certain date. IRS says to allow at least 14 days from the mailing date to receive it.
  3. We do not have enough information to process your payment or you do not qualify for a payment. This can mean several things:
    - Your income is too high to qualify for a stimulus check. It cannot be more than \$99,000 individual or \$198,000 for married couples. It will be prorated for individuals with income of \$75,000-\$99,000 and for married couples \$150,000-\$198,000.
    - You didn’t file a 2018 return and you filed your 2019 return later like in April or May and IRS has not fully processed it yet.
    - You haven’t filed a 2019 return yet and you didn’t qualify based on your 2018 return.
    - The system updates every night, so you can keep checking back.
- In several cases it could be if you do not get your stimulus payment it will be reconciled on your 2020 tax return as a refundable credit.
  1. For example, if your stimulus check was based on your 2018 tax return and you had a child in 2019, you probably didn’t get the extra \$500 for that new child. The \$500 should come through as a credit on your 2020 tax return.
- The deadline to submit direct deposit information on the “Get My Payment” link on the IRS website was May 18<sup>th</sup>. If IRS does not have your direct deposit information on file, they will mail checks, but those checks will likely not arrive until the end of May at the earliest.
- In April, IRS said it could take up to 20 weeks to send every payment out and is prioritizing the payment schedule by sending checks to those with the lowest incomes first.
- Just recently the IRS announced they are sending stimulus payments by mail, but they will come in the form of a debit card called EIP cards. OPEN ALL YOUR MAIL! These envelopes that come could be mistaken as junk mail.
  1. You will have to call in and activate your card and create a pin.
  2. You can use the debit card as a regular debit card at stores and online.
  3. You can transfer the balance from the debit card to your bank account.
    - Go to EIPCard.com. There may be transfer fees.
  4. You can get the cash from your card. There may be fees.
    - From an ATM
    - From a bank

The IRS will send a letter out to you 15 days after a payment is sent showing what the payment should be. You cannot call into IRS right now to talk to anyone about any issues with your stimulus payment because of the pandemic and it is unclear when you will be able to.

If you have any further questions, please call us and we will do our best to help you out!

Thanks!

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Income Tax Preparer

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