



A Self-Advocate's Guide to **COVID-19**

Part 5: How People On SSI And SSDI Get A Stimulus Check

The Coronavirus is changing our lives in many ways for a while. In April 2020, the federal government started giving \$1,200 to most adults. This money is to help people during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is called an Economic Impact Payment. Some people call it a Stimulus check. Part 3 explains how people on SSI or SSDI get the \$1,200 payment.

How People On SSI And SSDI Get A Stimulus Check



The federal government is giving \$1,200 to most adults. This money is to help you during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is called an Economic Impact Payment.

Some people call it a Stimulus check. Most adults on SSI and SSDI will get the \$1,200. The money is coming from the IRS. The IRS will send a check to your home or put the money in your bank account.

Be aware of **scams**



The IRS will not call you. They will not send you an email. Do not talk to people asking for personal information. Do not give out your bank account information.

Work with someone you trust before filling out any forms about your stimulus check. Beware of emails with attachments or links. Special offers to help you get your stimulus check are dangerous. Do not open those emails. Do not click on those attachments or links.

How much money will I get?

Most people will get \$1,200.

Will the stimulus check “mess up” my benefits?

The stimulus money will not count as “income.” It will not “mess up” your SSI or SSDI. You have 1 year to spend the \$1,200. It will **not** reduce your:



- SSI
- Section-8 or other housing assistance
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps

What Do I Have to Do To Get the Money?

If you filed a tax return last year or this year you will get the money automatically. You do not have to do anything. If you get your tax refund put directly into your bank account that is how you will get the \$1,200. If you get your refund check in the mail, a \$1,200 check will be mailed to you.

If you have been getting SSI or SSDI for a long time you are all set. You will automatically get the \$1,200. You do not have to do anything.

There are 2 ways people on SSI or SSDI get the money:



1. If your SSI or SSDI is put into a bank account then the \$1,200 will go into the same bank account.



2. If your SSI or SSDI checks are mailed, then the \$1,200 will come in the mail.

If you started getting SSI in 2020 you will not automatically get the \$1,200. If you did not file taxes and got your first SSI check in 2020 you need to sign up to get a stimulus check. Work with a person you trust to sign up on the **IRS's Non-Filers** website.

Who will not get the \$1,200?

If your parents claim you as a dependent on their taxes you will not get a check. Ask your parents if they claim you as a dependent.

If you need more information:



- Ask the person you trust to help you with your benefits.
- Protection and Advocacy may be able to help you. You can find one near you at:

<https://www.ndrn.org/about/ndrn-member-agencies/>