

THE FINANCIAL
PLAYBOOK
ACADEMY



CORONAVIRUS CHECKLIST:

A GAME PLAN FOR YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

&

STIMULUS CHECKS:

COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED





Establish an Emergency Fund

YOU SHOULD HAVE A 3-6 MONTH LIQUID CASH FUND TO PAY FOR NECESSITY EXPENSES.

If you do not, start by looking at your credit card and bank statements to see where you can reduce or cut certain non-necessity expenses.



Contact Your Credit Card Company Immediately

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT HOW THEY ARE GOING TO PAY THEIR CREDIT CARD BILLS THIS MONTH.

Many credit card companies are working with people by doing the following:

- a.** Reducing payments and late fees.
- b.** Letting you skip one month payment without additional interest.
- c.** Temporary interest rate adjustments.
- d.** Applying for temporary increase in credit limits.
- e.** Reducing minimum monthly payments.



File Your Taxes Now, If You Can

**THE TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO JULY 15TH.**

If you are expecting a tax refund, try and file now and use your refund for your emergency fund to pay only expenses for necessities.



Can't Make my Mortgage/Rent Payment

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IS PROVIDING IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO RENTERS AND HOME OWNERS BY SUSPENDING ALL FORECLOSURES AND EVICTIONS THROUGH THE END OF APRIL.

You should discuss immediately your options with your mortgage lender or landlord. You do not want to wait until your mortgage or rent payment is due.



If You Lose Your Job

**FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE ONLINE.**

Make sure you have your information ready to file, such as your most recent pay stubs, Employers name, address and phone number and your bank information.



Should I still Contribute to my 401k Plan?

FOR THE MOST PART, STILL CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR 401K, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR COMPANY IS MATCHING.

Remember, your 401k plan is a long- term plan. The best way to build your wealth is to be consistent with your investing and letting your money compound over a long period of time. However, if you are in a cash crunch right now, I would delay contributing to my 401k plan.



Understand What Investments you own and Why

ONE OF THE REASONS PEOPLE ARE SELLING STOCKS IS BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY OWN, OR WHY THEY OWN CERTAIN INVESTMENTS.

Now is the time to ask your advisor some questions:

- a.** How much risk am I taking with my portfolio?
- b.** How diversified am I?
- c.** Are my investments age appropriate?
- d.** What am I paying in fees?

Make sure your advisor educates you and never be afraid to ask questions. This is your money.

Coronavirus Stimulus Checks: Common Questions Answered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT?



Tax filers with adjusted gross income (AGI) up to \$75,000 for individuals, \$112,500 for head of household, and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns, will receive the full payment. Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.

WHAT IF I AM ABOVE THE LIMITS? WILL I STILL GET A STIMULUS CHECK?



Your payment amount is based on your 2019 return, or if not yet filed, your 2018 return, and is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000 single/ \$112,500 head of household and \$150,000 married filing jointly thresholds. For example, for a married couple with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$160,000 and no children, your payment would be reduced by \$500. Therefore, you would receive \$1,900.

Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000, head of household filers exceeding \$146,500 and joint filers exceeding \$198,000 with no children, are not eligible.

Social Security recipients and railroad retirees who are otherwise not required to file a tax return are also eligible and will not be required to file a return.

WHAT IS ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI)?



This is your gross income, which includes wages, dividends, capital gains, business income, retirement distributions and other income. To find your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for tax year 2019, you can find that figure on Line 8B on your 1040 form. For tax year 2018, you can find that figure on your 1040 form on line 7. Also, note that the due date for filing your 2019 Federal taxes has been delayed until July 15.

HOW WILL THE IRS KNOW WHERE TO SEND MY PAYMENT?



The majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. Your stimulus payment will be direct deposited into the same bank account you used to file your taxes.

THE IRS DOES NOT HAVE MY DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION. WHAT CAN I DO?



Taxpayers who filed their tax return without providing direct deposit information will be able to in the coming weeks, use a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately, as opposed to receiving checks in the mail. This should be up and running in mid-April. If you choose not to give direct deposit information, a check will be mailed to the address on file of your tax return.

I AM NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A TAX RETURN. CAN I STILL RECEIVE MY PAYMENT?



Taxpayers who filed their tax return without providing direct deposit information will be able to in the coming weeks, use a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately, as opposed to receiving checks in the mail. This should be up and running in mid-April. If you choose not to give direct deposit information, a check will be mailed to the address on file of your tax return.

I OWE BACK TAXES AND HAVE NOT FILED MY TAX RETURN FOR 2018 OR 2019. CAN I STILL RECEIVE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT?



Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can, to receive a stimulus payment. According to the IRS, they will still issue you a stimulus payment even if you owe back taxes, for federal and state taxes and student loans not paid. The only exception is unpaid child support payments. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on their tax return.

HOW LONG ARE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS AVAILABLE?



According to the IRS, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

WHAT IF I GET A CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL FROM THE IRS?



Unfortunately, scammers already know stimulus checks are coming your way and are trying to cash in on your money. Be aware, the IRS will not do the following:

- *Call you* - If you get a call from some claiming they are from the IRS needing more information to process your stimulus check, hang up immediately. THE IRS NEVER CALLS PEOPLE.
- *Text or email you* - If you receive a text or email, do not reply and give anyone your personal information, such as your Social Security number, bank information or PayPal account information. If you have filed your 2018 and/or 2019 income tax returns, you don't need to do anything.
- *Early access to your stimulus money* - No one has early access to this money. Scammers are trying to panic and confuse people in giving them personal information. According to the IRS, checks will be issued in order of Taxpayers with the lowest Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

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