

# UNDERSTANDING CARES

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act



The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law on March 27. It offers direct payments to individuals called "Recovery Rebates".

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Those who filed 2018 or 2019 tax returns
- Those receiving social security (SSA-1099)
- Those receiving Rail Road Retirement Benefits (RRB-1099)



Those who did not file 2018 or 2019 tax returns must act now and file returns in order to receive the check.  
More information below.



# HOW MUCH WILL YOU RECEIVE?

Single Person  
Making \$75,000 or less

**\$1,200**

Head of Household  
Making \$112,000 or less

**\$1,200**

Married Couple Joint Filing  
Making \$150,000 or less

**\$2,400**



The credit is a fixed amount until income reaches the phase out level.

The credit phases out at a rate of 5% of the adjusted gross income.



# WHAT ABOUT MY CHILDREN?

Children 16 and under  
\$500 per child



Adopted children 16 and under  
\$500 per child



Taxpayers must provide a Social Security number for themselves, their spouse (if married filing jointly), and any child for whom they claim the \$500 child credit. Adoption taxpayer ID numbers (ATINs) are also acceptable for adopted children.

# HOW CAN I RECEIVE MY CREDIT?

If you have filed your 2018 or 2019 taxes, and have provided an account number for a tax refund in 2018 or 2019, you will have an automatic deposit of your credit into your bank account.

If you did not provide an account number, you'll be mailed a check for the amount of your credit.





# WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CARES

- Non-residential individuals.
- Individuals over the age of 16 who are claimed as dependents. Thus, many college students will not receive the credit.
- Taxpayers who provide an individual taxpayer identification number.
- Married couples in which one spouse has an SSN and another has an ITIN are generally ineligible for the credit.
- The law relaxes these ID requirements for married joint filers in which at least one spouse is a member of the Armed Forces. In those cases, only one spouse must provide an SSN.





# WHAT IF I HAVEN'T FILED TAXES?

“Under current law, taxpayers with gross income less than the standard deduction amount are not required to file a federal income tax return. In addition, public cash assistance for low-income populations, such as Supplemental Security Income, is generally not considered gross income under a limited general welfare exclusion. This means, many low-income individuals and families whose income is largely from public assistance may not have filed a 2018 or 2019 income tax return. These individuals and families would not receive these rebates in 2020, **unless they filed a 2019 or 2018 return, which both policymakers and the IRS are encouraging**”

These individuals must act now to receive their rebate!





# WHAT IF I OWE BACK TAXES?

The credit cannot be reduced for past-due state income taxes, federal taxes, or unemployment compensation debts.

This means any debts owed to a federal agency (excluding child support) will not affect your CARES credit.





# MORE INFO & SOURCES

The advancing provision allows taxpayers to receive this credit before 2020 tax returns are filed in early 2021.

The advanced credit amount will be estimated by the IRS based on taxpayers' 2019 or 2018 income tax return information.

For Social Security and Railroad Retirement recipients, if neither a 2019 nor a 2018 income tax return was filed, the law allows the IRS to use information from their 2019 Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefit Statement (SSA-1099 or RRB-1099, respectively).

## Source:

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11282>

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>