

Reducing Recidivism and Improving Reentry through Economic Impact Payments during COVID-19

Economic Impact Payments for individuals recently released from incarceration during the COVID-19 pandemic can increase economic independence and labor force attachment through helping cover basic expenses while individuals seek employment and get on their feet. Providing this investment during this challenging time to improve the economic productivity of those reentering can, in turn, help to reduce recidivism and improve other outcomes such as increasing child support payments and improving community safety.

Congress has funded these Economic Impact Payments from the Internal Revenue Service to address the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ However, while many reentering individuals may be eligible for an Economic Impact Payment, they may need additional assistance to ensure they receive one.

What Are Economic Impact Payments?

In response to COVID-19, these are payments of \$1,200 to most adults delivered either through direct deposit or as a check mailed to an address. To receive the full payment, individuals must have a social security number and make less than \$75,000 a year. (Married couples, people who claim their children as dependents, and people who make more than \$75,000 may get different amounts.)

Payments can be offset through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) only to collect delinquent child support obligations that have been referred by the state to TOP. These payments will be distributed to the custodial parent or retained by the state, up to the amount of the parent's child support debt.

More information about payments and eligibility can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>

How can eligible reentering populations you serve receive a payment?

Individuals will **automatically** receive a payment if they **filed or will file a federal income tax** for 2018 or 2019. The deadline for filing taxes is now July 15, 2020.

Individuals who have no tax return filing requirement should use the IRS Non-Filer tool and **complete an Economic Impact Payment form as soon as possible:** <https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/EconomicImpactPayment>.

The form requires an individual's full name, current mailing address, an email address, date of birth, and valid Social Security number. If available, individuals can add their bank information to receive the funds via direct deposit. More information about the form is available at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>.

How can you help this population receive a payment to improve reentry outcomes?

Make sure individuals know about the economic impact payments and help them determine if they are eligible to receive a payment. Reentering individuals may lack some of the information necessary to receive a payment such as an email address, internet access, or mailing address. Consider:

1. Suggesting they **use the email and/or mailing address of a trusted friend/family member** or your organization.
2. Helping them **file a tax return if they are required to do so**. They may be entitled to a tax refund.

¹ Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020