



# Rhode Island Department of Revenue

## Division of Taxation

ADV 2020-17  
TAX ADMINISTRATION

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS AND TAX PROFESSIONALS  
APRIL 17, 2020

### **More information involving federal payments for individuals**

*Details for VA beneficiaries; extra step for certain benefit recipients with dependents*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation provides the following information about the new federal “economic impact payments” (sometimes called “stimulus payments”, “COVID-19 payments”, or “recovery rebates”):

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that recipients of benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will automatically receive economic impact payments. Veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from the VA will receive a \$1,200 economic impact payment with no further action needed on their part. Timing on the payments is still being determined. To learn more, click [here](#).

Earlier this month, the IRS took a similar action to ensure that those receiving Social Security retirement benefits, Social Security disability benefits (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Railroad Retirement benefits can receive automatic payments of \$1,200.

While these groups receive Forms 1099, many in these groups don't typically file tax returns. Many people in these groups are expected to see the automatic \$1,200 payments later this month, with SSI payments expected to start in early May.

For eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018, they will also receive the payments automatically. About 80 million payments are hitting bank accounts this week.

#### **EXTRA STEP NEEDED FOR CERTAIN BENEFIT RECIPIENTS WITH DEPENDENTS**

A new federal law provides that eligible taxpayers with qualifying children under age 17 will receive an extra \$500. For taxpayers who filed tax returns in 2018 or 2019, the child payments will be automatic.

However, many benefit recipients typically aren't required to file tax returns. If they have children who qualify, an extra step is needed to add \$500 per child onto their automatic payment of \$1,200 if they didn't file a tax return in 2018 or 2019. The extra step is as follows.

#### **About this Advisory**

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation does not have a role in issuing the new federal economic impact payments (sometimes referred to as “stimulus payments”). The Division is providing the information in this Advisory as a public service for taxpayers and tax preparers on behalf of the Division's Security Summit partner, the Internal Revenue Service.

For those who receive these benefits – including VA, Social Security retirement benefits, Social disability benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, or SSI – **and** have a qualifying child, they can quickly register by using the following link on the IRS website:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

For those who can use this tool as soon as possible, they may be able to get earlier delivery of the child payments by having the child payments added to their automatic payments.

By quickly taking steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they can receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment.

If beneficiaries in these groups do not provide their information to the IRS soon, they will receive their \$500 per qualifying child at a later date, depending on when they complete the registration process.

The United States Treasury Department, not the VA, will make these automatic payments. Recipients will generally receive the automatic payments the way they receive their current benefits.

#### Note to taxpayers, preparers

The information in this Advisory is summarized from IRS notices and releases and is not a complete representation of all notices and releases provided by the IRS. Furthermore, the U.S. Treasury and the IRS have been frequently revising and updating their information about the economic impact payments amid quickly changing events. For the most complete and up-to-date information, taxpayers and tax preparers are encouraged to check this IRS website: [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

For more information related to veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from the VA, use the following link: <https://www.va.gov/>.

#### FOR BENEFITS RECIPIENTS USING THE IRS.GOV NON-FILER TOOL AND GET MY PAYMENT TOOL

The IRS recognizes that many non-tax filing beneficiaries have already begun using the “[Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info](#)” tool on the IRS website to provide basic personal information to receive their economic impact payment. There will be no interruption to payments being processed using that portal, and veterans with internet access are encouraged to continue providing information and track their economic impact payment through the “Get My Payments” tool on the IRS website.

General information about the economic impact payments is available on a special section of the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.

#### WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS INVOLVING ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, the IRS, and other partners in the Security Summit urge taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams related to the economic impact payments. To use the new app or get information, taxpayers should visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). People should watch out for scams using email, phone calls, or texts related to the payments. Be careful and cautious: The IRS will not send unsolicited electronic communications asking people to open attachments, visit a

website, or share personal or financial information. Remember, go directly and solely to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for official information.

Also please keep in mind that the economic impact payments are part of a federal program.<sup>1</sup> The Rhode Island Division of Taxation has nothing to do with the administration of the federal program or the distribution of the federal payments. For information about the federal payments, please see the IRS's website: [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

The IRS will compute the amount of your payment based on information contained in your federal income tax return, not on your Rhode Island personal income tax return. The filing of a Rhode Island personal income tax return has nothing to do with the federal stimulus payments. For information about the federal payments, please see the IRS's website: [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

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### **DIVISION OF TAXATION: USE OF FACE MASKS**

In order to control the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and in accordance with Governor Gina M. Raimondo's Executive Order 20-24, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation encourages any member of the public entering the Powers Building (where the Division of Taxation is located) in Providence to have a face mask/covering while in the building.

The Division continues to encourage taxpayers and others to use the Division's website, phone system, email system, and portal, instead of visiting the Division's office, in order to help control transmission of the coronavirus. Virtually all services the Division provides are available online or by phone.

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*The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, part of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, has normal operating hours from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 or see <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact>*

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<sup>1</sup> The economic impact payments are federal payments. Information about the payments is available from the Internal Revenue Service, which is administering the payments. They are not Rhode Island payments; the Rhode Island Division of Taxation has nothing to do with the administration of the economic impact payment program. The Rhode Island Division of Taxation provides this Advisory solely as a public service. In general, information used by the IRS to distribute the payments will be based on federal income tax returns, not on Rhode Island personal income tax returns.