

COVID19: The Economic Impact Payment for Rhode Island Works & General Public Assistance Recipients

The Economic Impact Payment

- Economic Impact Payments –commonly referred to as “stimulus checks” or “recovery rebates”– are a key provision of the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act legislation that Congress passed to help reduce the financial burden on residents.
- The payments are an advance of a temporary credit for 2020 (for which you will file taxes in 2021). Payments are non-taxable income that does not need to be paid back.
- You do not need to have earned income in 2019 or 2018 to be eligible.
- The payment is \$1,200 per adult individual and \$500 per dependent child ages 16 and under.
- The payment does not affect SNAP, Medicaid, RI Works, GPA or other public benefits.

RI Works Program

The RI Works program is for families with children under age 18 and their parents/caretaker relatives. The families receive a nominal cash benefit – a maximum of \$554/for family of 3. There are roughly 4,000 families currently participating in the program.

GPA Bridge Program

The General Public Assistance (GPA) program serves adults with disabilities who receive Medicaid, and have an application pending for SSI. Program participants receive \$200/month in GPA “bridge” payment while they wait for their application to be processed. There are roughly 115 individuals participating in the program.

If you filed 2019 or 2018 income-taxes

You are all set, your economic impact payment should be on its way! Check on its status here:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

If you did not file 2019 or 2018 taxes

GPA Bridge Recipients:

- Use the non-filer portal.

RI Works Recipients:

- **Parent/caregiver has earnings in 2019:** File a tax return to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC) & Economic Impact Payment. If you need help filing your tax return for free, call 2-1-1 to find a VITA site that is currently serving clients.
- **Parent/Caregiver is enrolled in SSI, children in RI Works:** File through non-filer portal to get payment for children and for parent. It is important to file as soon as possible to get the payment for children quickly. If the parent doesn't file through the non-filer portal by the end of April, she will receive the \$1,200 payment automatically, but will not receive the children's payment until 2021, based on filing a 2020 tax return.
- **Parent/Caregiver has not worked in 2019 or 2018:** Apply through non-filer portal

To use the non-filer portal. Go to IRS.gov and look for the “Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here” button.

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