



COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments Information and Resources

—Last updated: April 5, 2021—

THE BASICS

An **Economic Impact Payment** (also known as a “stimulus check”) is money that the U.S. government gave to qualifying individuals to help them during the COVID-19 crisis. As of April 5, 2021, the U.S. government has authorized three Economic Impact Payments.

A “**qualifying individual**” who could receive one or both Economic Impact Payments is a US citizen, permanent resident or resident alien who:



1. Has a valid Social Security number;
2. Could not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer; and
3. Has an adjusted gross income of less than \$99,000 (singles) or \$198,000 (joint filers)

The amount of your Economic Impact Payment(s)

1. First Economic Impact Payment (“EIP 1”)

- Single and earn less than \$75,000/year → you can get \$1,200.
- Married and file jointly and earn less than \$150,000/year → you can get \$2,400
- Head of household and earn less than \$112,500 → you can get \$1,200.
- You can get \$500 for every child under 17 years old who you claim as a dependent.
- Individuals who have higher incomes will have their payment amount reduced based on their income above the amounts provided above.

2. Second Economic Impact Payment (“EIP 2”)

- Single and earn less than \$75,000/year → you can get \$600.
- Married and file jointly and earn less than \$150,000/year → you can get \$1,200
- Head of household and earn less than \$112,500 → you can get \$600.
- You can get \$600 for every child under 17 years old who you claim as a dependent.



- Individuals who have higher incomes will have their payment amount reduced based on their income above the amounts provided above.

3. *Third Economic Impact Payment (“EIP 3”)*

- Single and earn less than \$75,000/year → you can get \$1,400.
- Married and file jointly and earn less than \$150,000/year → you can get \$2,800
- Head of household and earn less than \$112,500 → you can get \$1,400.
- You can get \$1,400 for every individual you can claim as a dependent - including dependents over age 17.
- Individuals who have higher incomes will have their payment amount reduced based on their income above the amounts provided above.

Getting your Economic Impact Payment(s)

- The IRS announced that, as of January 15, 2021, it distributed all of the first two Economic Impact Payments that it will be distributing. If you did not get your first or second Economic Impact Payment, or if you got the wrong amount, you can still try to claim the payment(s) as a “Recovery Rebate Credit” by filing a 2020 tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance. The IRS started sending out the third Economic Impact Payment in March 2021. Those that do not receive the third payment should file a 2020 tax return and claim it as a Recovery Rebate Credit.
- **First Economic Impact Payment / EIP 1**
 - You should have **automatically** received your first Economic Impact Payment if:
 - » You filed your 2018 or 2019 tax returns;
 - » You were receiving Social Security retirement, survivors or disability insurance (“RSDI”), Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) benefits as of November 2020; or
 - » You were getting Veterans Affairs (“VA”) benefits or Railroad Retirement Benefits (“RRB”) before January 1, 2020.
 - You should have also received your Economic Impact Payment if:
 - » You registered successfully on the IRS’ Non-Filer Registration Portal before November 21, 2020; or



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- » You filed a Simplified Paper Return and mailed it to the IRS before October 30, 2020.
- You should have automatically received a supplemental Economic Impact Payment for any of your dependent child(ren) if:
 - » You filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, and claimed your dependent(s) on that tax return.
 - » You registered any dependent(s) on the Non-Filer Registration portal before September 30, 2020.
- **Second Economic Impact Payment / EIP 2**
 - The second Economic Impact Payments were distributed during January 2021, and, in general, they were being distributed automatically to anyone who received the first Economic Impact Payment.
 - According to the IRS, you should receive your second payment in the same form that you received your first one. So if you got your first one by mail, you will receive the second one to the same mailing address. Similarly, if you got your first one as a direct deposit to your bank account, the second one will be deposited there as well.
 - **If you did not get your first or second Economic Impact Payment, the dependent amounts for them, you can still try to claim them as a “Recovery Rebate Credit” by filing your 2020 taxes. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance.**
- **Third Economic Impact Payment / EIP 3**
 - The third Economic Impact Payments started being distributed in March 2021, and, in general, they are being distributed automatically to anyone who received the first or second Economic Impact Payment.
 - According to the IRS, you should receive your third payment in the same form that you received your first or second one. So if you got your others by mail, you will receive the third one to the same mailing address. Similarly, if you got your first or second payments as a direct deposit to your bank account, the second one will be deposited there as well.
 - If you did not get your third Economic Impact Payment or the dependent payment for it, you can still try to claim them as a “Recovery Rebate Credit” by filing your 2020 taxes. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance.



Is it possible that I am eligible for only one of the Economic Impact Payments but not all of them?

- In general, the rules for eligibility are the same for all three Economic Impact Payments. However, there are some important exceptions, including:
 - **Mixed Status Households.** If you are in a household where only one spouse has a valid Social Security Number, the rules have changed for eligibility after the first payment. Now, the spouse with the Social Security number can receive the second and third Economic Impact Payments and dependent amounts. Further, the spouse with the Social Security Number can retroactively claim the first Economic Impact Payment (\$1200) and any dependent payments.
 - » Please contact a free tax assistance organization for support and filing your 2020 tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance.
 - **Child Support Arrears.** Individuals who owed more than \$150 in child support payments were not eligible for the first Economic Impact Payment. However, these individuals are not barred from receiving the second Economic Impact Payment due to child support arrears. If you did not get the first payment due to child support arrears, you may still be eligible for the second payment.
- If you do not automatically get the second payment, please contact a free tax assistance organization for support and filing for your 2020 tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

I didn't get my Economic Impact Payment(s) or dependent amount(s) and need to file a tax return - will my Recovery Rebate Credit be the same amount as the Economic Impact Payment and dependent amounts?

- Unfortunately, the rules for the Recovery Rebate Credit are slightly different than the rules for Economic Impact Payments. Therefore, it is possible that you could get a lower amount of the Recovery Rebate Credit even if you qualified for the full amount(s) of Economic Impact Payment.



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- The first Economic Impact Payment could only be offset by child support arrears for the first one.
- The second Economic Impact Payment could not be offset by any debts.
- However, the Recovery Rebate Credit is treated like any other tax credit, and can be offset by a number of debts, including unpaid taxes, student loans, child support and more. The IRS recently announced that it would exercise its discretion, and not automatically offset the Recovery Rebate Credit amount for federal debts. Thus, as of April 2021, the Recovery Rebate Credit amount may still be offset by any state debts, but not federal debts
- **This means that if you are an eligible individual who did not receive your full Economic Impact Payment(s), and you have certain outstanding state debts, some or all of your payment may be withheld by the IRS to cover your debts.**
- If you have outstanding debts, you should contact a Tax Assistance Organization before filing a 2020 tax return to discuss your specific situation. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section below](#) for more information about free tax assistance.
- If you have outstanding tax debts, you can also contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service before filing a 2020 tax return. They may be able to assist you in requesting an “offset bypass refund” if you can prove you are struggling with “financial hardship.” Please visit <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about-us/> or call (877) 777-4778 to contact the Taxpayer Advocate.

For general information on Economic Impact Payments, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center> and <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/second-eip-faqs>.



Tax Assistance Organizations

For many individuals, in order to receive their stimulus payments, they will need to file a 2020 tax return **before the new tax filing deadline of May 17, 2021**. You can get free high quality tax assistance from a number of organizations. You do not need to pay for tax assistance to file your tax return. Below are a number of organizations offering free high quality tax assistance to low-income individuals. Please note that most of these organizations will require you to make an appointment, and will also ask you for identification, your Social Security card, and any recent tax documents:

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (“VITA”)** - To find the free VITA site closest to you, visit <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/> or call (800) 906-9887.
- **United Way of the Bay Area** – <https://earnitkeepitsaveit.org/> or call 2-1-1.
- **Alameda County Social Services Agency - Earn it! Keep it! Save it!** - To make an appointment, you need to register and schedule an appointment online at <https://public.alamedasocialservices.org/EITCScheduler>. Please note that you will need to provide a cell phone number or an e-mail address. Please visit https://alamedakids.org/resource-directory/program_uploads/155_1166_6097959266.pdf for more information, including locations and hours. If you do not have access to a computer, you can make an appointment by calling (510) 645-9352.
- **VITA - UC Hastings Low Income Tax Clinic** - Register for virtual tax assistance at <https://www.uchastings.edu/academics/pro-bono/vita/>. Appointments are available between February 22, 2021 and April 12, 2021.
- **Unity Council** - Call (510) 535-6101 to make an in-person appointment. Visit <https://unitycouncil.org/program/vita/> for more information.
- **San Antonio Community Development Center in Oakland** - Email sacdc2228@gmail.com to get free help with tax preparation after January 20, 2021.
- **Acorn Computer Learning Center** - Call (510) 444-1206 to make an in-person appointment after Feb 16, 2021.
- **Chinese Newcomers Service Center** - Call (415) 421-2111 to make an appointment to drop off your documents at their office in San Francisco. Visit <https://chinesenewcomers.org/en/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-program-vita/> for more information.
- **IRS** - Free tax filing available online at the IRS website - <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-fillable-forms/free-file-fillable-forms-is-closed>



COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments Fraud Alert

There is a risk of fraud connected to Economic Impact Payments. Be careful!

Here are some important tips:

- The IRS will not call or email you to ask for any personal information or bank account information related to the Economic Impact Payment.
- Do not give this kind of personal information to anyone who calls you or emails you for it.
- The IRS will never threaten you or ask for important information by email.
- You do not need to pay anything to get the Economic Impact Payment. If you need help, there are free service providers who can help.
- The IRS won't tell you to deposit your Economic Impact Payment then send them money back because they paid you more than they owed you. That's a fake check scam.

For more information, please visit:

- Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") Coronavirus Scams web page at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>
- Social Security Association ("SSA") blog at <https://blog.ssa.gov/inspector-general-warns-about-new-social-security-benefit-suspension-scam/>
- Office of the Inspector General ("OIG") website at <https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-releases/march20-advisory>
- Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") website at <https://www.irs.gov/compliance/criminal-investigation/irs-warns-about-covid-19-economic-impact-payment-fraud>



COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How can I get help filing a tax return so I can claim my “Recovery Rebate Credit”?

- You can get free high quality tax assistance from a number of organizations. You do not need to pay for tax assistance to file your tax return.
- Below are a number of organizations offering free high quality tax assistance to low-income individuals. Please note that most of these organizations will require you to make an appointment, and will also ask you for identification, your Social Security number, and any recent tax documents:
 - **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (“VITA”)** - To find the free VITA site closest to you, visit <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/> or call (800) 906-9887.
 - **United Way of the Bay Area** – <https://earnitkeepitsaveit.org/> or call 2-1-1.
 - **Alameda County Social Services Agency - Earn it! Keep it! Save it!** - To make an appointment, you need to register and schedule an appointment online at <https://public.alamedasocialservices.org/EITCScheduler>. Please note that you will need to provide a cell phone number or an e-mail address. Please visit https://alamedakids.org/resource-directory/program_uploads/155_1166_6097959266.pdf for more information, including locations and hours. If you do not have access to a computer, you can make an appointment by calling (510) 645-9352.
 - **VITA - UC Hastings Low Income Tax Clinic** - Register for virtual tax assistance at <https://www.uchastings.edu/academics/pro-bono/vita/>. Appointments are available between February 22, 2021 and April 12, 2021.
 - **Unity Council** - Call (510) 535-6101 to make an in-person appointment. Visit <https://unitycouncil.org/program/vita/> for more information.
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 - **Chinese Newcomers Service Center** - Call (415) 421-2111 to make an appoint-



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ment to drop off your documents at their office in San Francisco. Visit <https://chinesenewcomers.org/en/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-program-vita/> for more information.

- IRS - Free tax filing available online at the IRS website - <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-fillable-forms/free-file-fillable-forms-is-closed>

How will I get the Economic Impact Payment?

- You should have received your Economic Impact Payment(s) in the same form that your government benefits or tax refund usually comes - either deposited directly into your bank account, deposited directly into your Direct Express card, or by check or debit card mailed to the mailing address you most recently provided to the IRS.

I don't have a permanent address—What should I do?

- If you have a safe address, such as a non-profit organization, social services office, or community center, where you can have important mail sent, you can use that address with the organization's permission. You may also choose to use a friend or family member's address if that address is safe for you to access mail.
- You may prefer to set up a bank account if you do not have a safe mailing address.

How can I check the status of my Economic Impact Payment?

- You can only check the status of your third Economic Impact Payment at this time. To do so, you can enter your information at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment> to get a status update.
- You can call the IRS Economic Impact Payment help line at (800) 919-9835 and ask to speak with an Analyst who can provide “specific case information.” You may have to wait 20-30 minutes to speak with an Analyst, and you will need to verify your identity (including name, Social Security Number, phone number, tax information) with the Analyst.

Do incarcerated individuals qualify for an Economic Impact Payment?

- Yes, incarcerated individuals may still qualify for an Economic Impact Payment.
- If you are or were incarcerated and did not get your Economic Impact Payments, please contact a free tax assistance organization to determine your eligibility and to



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file a 2020 tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

- If you are denied an Economic Impact Payment or Recovery Rebate Credit, and you think it is because you were or are incarcerated, or if you got a lower amount because your spouse or dependent was incarcerated, or if the facility where you were incarcerated returned your payment to the IRS instead of giving it to you, please reach out to your Bay Area Legal Aid representative, or call the Legal Advice Hotline at (800) 551- 5554.

Will the Economic Impact Payment reduce my cash aid (like GA, SSI), school meals, WIC, CalWorks, Medi-Cal or CalFresh?

- No - as long as you spend the Economic Impact Payment check in 12 months.
 - The payments are not considered a resource for 12 months.
 - The payments are not counted as income during the month they are received.

I owe money—Will the IRS take that out of my Economic Impact Payment?

- The IRS was only allowed to take out from your first Economic Impact Payment if you owed child support greater than \$150.
- The IRS is not allowed to take out any of your second or third Economic Impact Payment if you owed child support, or for any other debt.
- However, if you did not get the full amount of your Economic Impact Payment(s) and need to file a tax return to request a Recovery Rebate Credit, it is important to note that the IRS is currently permitted to offset the Recovery Rebate Credit for any debts that you owe. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.
- Please also see **I didn't get my Economic Impact Payment(s) or dependent amount(s) and need to file a tax return - will my Recovery Rebate Credit be the same amount as the Economic Impact Payment and dependent amounts?** (above) for more details.
- Be careful of private creditors who may try to garnish payments from your bank account that you owe on outstanding court judgments. If you are concerned about a



debt collector coming after your Economic Impact Payment for unpaid judgments, please contact the court to see if there is an outstanding writ of execution for the judgment, or call our Legal Advice Line at 1-800-551-5554.

- If you have any questions or concerns about a person or entity trying to take part of your Economic Impact Payment for a prior loan, please contact our Legal Advice Line at 1-800-551-5554.

What do I do if I have a qualifying dependent but didn't get a check for them?

- You should have received an additional amount with your first and second Economic Impact Payments for your dependent child(ren) under age 17 if you filed your 2018 or 2019 taxes claiming these dependent(s), received RSDI, SSI, VA or RRB, OR you registered your dependent child(ren) on the IRS Non-Filer registration website before September 30, 2020. You should have received an additional amount with your third Economic Impact Payment for your dependents of any age if you filed your taxes or receive certain public benefits.
- If you did not receive an additional amount for your dependent(s), you can still try to claim that amount as part of your "Recovery Rebate Credit" by filing a 2020 tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

Can I get the additional amounts for dependents who I claimed that are over 17 years old?

- For the first and second Economic Impact Payments, the additional payments per dependent were only available for qualifying dependents under age 17.
- For the third Economic Impact Payment, the additional payments per dependent were available for any qualifying dependent of any age.

What should I do if I was claimed as a dependent by someone else and now can't get the Economic Impact Payment?

- Someone who was properly claimed as a dependent by someone else, or could have been properly claimed as a dependent by someone else, is not entitled to their own



Economic Impact Payment.

- To determine whether you should have been claimed by another person as their dependent, you may want to seek out professional tax advice or assistance for support. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

I did not get my Economic Impact Payment—What should I do?

- There are a number of reasons you may not have gotten your first and/or second Economic Impact Payment. Here are a few possibilities:
 - Someone else claimed you as a dependent;
 - You owe child support payments;
 - Someone else received your check and will not give it to you;
 - Your check was sent to an old mailing address or another address that you cannot access;
 - Your check was deposited into a bank account that you no longer have access to; and/or
 - Your payment was deposited to a direct express card that you do not have.
- Please contact your Bay Area Legal Aid representative directly, or call our Legal Advice Line at 1-800-551-5554.
- You can also reach out to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) at <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1543> or <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/> or by calling 1-800-906-9887, or to United Way of the Bay Area at <https://earnitkeepitsaveit.org/> or by calling 2-1-1.
- The IRS Taxpayer Advocate may be able to assist you if you did not receive an Economic Impact Payment, or did not receive the correct amount, in the following limited situations:
 - Non-Filer who claimed a dependent but did not receive the portion of the Economic Impact Payment for their dependents;
 - Eligible individuals who filed for an “Injured Spouse Allocation” but did not receive an Economic Impact Payment;
 - Individuals whose Economic Impact Payment was based on a 2018 or 2019 tax return but an IRS adjustment negatively impacted the amount of the person’s Economic Impact Payment;



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- Victims of identity theft who did not get their Economic Impact Payment or did not get the right amount;
- Individuals who did not get their Economic Impact Payment because they filed a joint return with a deceased or incarcerated spouse.
- If your case does not fit into one of the above categories for Taxpayer Advocate assistance, please note that the IRS has advised that it cannot currently correct or issue a payment. Therefore, you may need to claim additional amounts, or the full amount, of your Economic Impact Payment by filing a 2020 tax return and requesting a “Recovery Rebate Credit.” Make sure to keep the Notice 1444, Your Economic Impact Payment, that you will receive in the mail, so you can use it to claim any additional amounts when you file your tax return. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

I received my Economic Impact Payment by check, but it was lost, stolen, or destroyed—What should I do?

- If you did not get your Economic Impact Payment, but your status on the IRS “Get My Payment” page shows your payment was issued, or you received an IRS Notice that your payment was sent, you can request a “Payment Trace” by completing [IRS Form 3911](#) (“Taxpayer Statement Regarding Refund”).
 - For more information about the timeline for when you should request a “Payment Trace”, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.
- To request a Payment Trace, you can call the IRS (800-919-9835) or submit an [IRS Form 3911](#) (“Taxpayer Statement Regarding Refund”) and:
 - Write “EIP” on the top of the form;
 - Complete Sections I, II and III;
 - Answer the refund questions as they relate to your Economic Impact Payment;
 - In Section I, Number 7, check the box for “Individual” as “Type of return” and enter “2020” as the tax period, and leave the “Date Filed” blank;
 - Mail or fax the form to the appropriate location listed at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.
- You should hear back from the IRS after about 6 weeks.



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- If you do not hear back from the IRS after 6 weeks, or if you are too close to the May 17, 2021 tax filing deadline to wait, you may need to file a 2020 tax return to claim your payments. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

I received a notice—either a mailed IRS Notice 1444 or a status update on the IRS website—stating that my Economic Impact Payment was issued, but I did not receive it. What should I do?

- If you did not get your Economic Impact Payment, but your status on the IRS “Get My Payment” page shows your payment was issued, or you received an IRS Notice that your payment was sent, you can request a “Payment Trace” by completing [IRS Form 3911](#) (“Taxpayer Statement Regarding Refund”).
 - For more information about the timeline for when you should request a “Payment Trace”, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.
- To request a Payment Trace, you can call the IRS (800-919-9835) or submit an [IRS Form 3911](#) (“Taxpayer Statement Regarding Refund”) and:
 - Write “EIP” on the top of the form;
 - Complete Sections I, II and III;
 - Answer the refund questions as they relate to your Economic Impact Payment;
 - In Section I:
 - » Check the box for “Individual” as “Type of return”;
 - » Enter “2020” as the tax period; and
 - » Leave the “Date Filed” blank.
 - Mail or fax the form to the appropriate location listed at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.
- You should hear back from the IRS after about 6-8 weeks. If you do not hear back from the IRS after 6-8 weeks, you may need to file a 2020 tax return to claim your payment. [Please see the Tax Assistance Organizations section](#) for more information about free tax assistance.

I have a representative payee for my public benefits—How will that



impact my receipt of an Economic Impact Payment?

- If you have a representative payee, your Economic Impact Payment will be deposited directly into the account that is managed by your representative payee, or your representative payee will receive a check in the mail with your payment.
- **The Economic Impact Payment belongs to the Social Security or SSI beneficiary, and is not considered a Social Security or SSI benefit that requires management or oversight by a representative payee.**
- If your representative payee has withheld or misused your Economic Impact Payment, you may also contact us at www.baylegal/eip or call our Legal Advice Line at 800-551-5554 for additional assistance.
- For more information and frequently asked questions about representative payees, please visit: https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/?utm_content=pressrelease&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

I am a representative payee—What do I need to know about Economic Impact Payments?

Information below is cited from the Social Security Administration website, accessed on May 1, 2020. BayLegal will make every effort to keep this information current, but we suggest also checking the SSA update page at <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>.

- **Will the Economic Impact Payment (EIP) be deposited directly into the account managed by the representative payee?**
 - In certain situations, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may deposit a Social Security or SSI beneficiary's EIP into an account managed by the representative payee, or the representative payee will receive a check.
- **How should a representative payee use a beneficiary's Economic Impact Payment (EIP?)**
 - The EIP belongs to the Social Security or SSI beneficiary. It is not a Social Security or SSI benefit. A representative payee should discuss the EIP with the beneficiary. If the beneficiary wants to use the EIP independently, the representative payee should provide the EIP to the beneficiary. If the beneficiary asks the representative payee for assistance in using the EIP in a specific manner or saving it, the representative



payee can provide that assistance outside the role of a representative payee.

- **What responsibilities does the representative payee have in managing the beneficiary's Economic Impact Payment (EIP)?**
 - Under the Social Security Act, a representative payee is only responsible for managing Social Security or SSI benefits. An EIP is not such a benefit. A representative payee should discuss the EIP with the beneficiary. If the beneficiary wants to use the EIP independently, the representative payee should provide the EIP to the beneficiary. If the beneficiary asks the representative payee for assistance in using the EIP in a specific manner or saving it, the representative payee can provide that assistance outside the role of a representative payee.
- **How should representative payees account for the Economic Impact Payment (EIP) when completing the annual Representative Payee Report (i.e., annual accounting form)?**
 - Because an EIP is not a Social Security or SSI benefit, representative payees are not required to account for the EIP when they complete their annual accounting form.
- **What if a beneficiary alleges a representative payee misused the Economic Impact Payment (EIP)?**
 - Because an EIP is not a Social Security or SSI benefit, SSA does not have authority to investigate or determine whether the EIP has been misused. However, if SSA receives an allegation that the EIP was not used on behalf of the beneficiary, SSA may decide to investigate for possible misuse of the beneficiary's Social Security or SSI benefit payments. SSA may also determine the representative payee is no longer suitable and appoint a new representative payee.