<https://acl.gov/covid19/resources-everyone#assistance>

? Here you will find information about how receiving Economic Impact Payment (EIP) money or other pandemic-related financial assistance, such as Unemployment Assistance, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, and emergency housing assistance, will not affect federal public benefits.

**Economic Impact Payments and Eligibility for Federal Programs**

Most types of pandemic-related financial assistance, including Economic Impact Payments, [are not considered income](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payment-information-center-topic-j-reconciling-on-your-2020-tax-return" \t "_blank) when assessing eligibility for -- or amount, duration, or scope of -- a public benefit like SSI, Medicaid, or SNAP. As a corollary, transfer of assets provisions do not apply.**COVID-19 Assistance and SSI Eligibility**

In August 2021, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed their rules about how pandemic-related financial assistance (including economic impact payments) can affect an individual’s eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or their monthly SSI benefit amount.View a full list of COVID-19 financial assistance that no longer counts against SSI eligibility or SSI payment amount.

In addition, ACL’s National Center on Law and Elder Rights (NCLER) has developed a “Practice Tip” with additional information on this change and its legal implications.

**Important Information about Economic Impact Payments for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities**

In June 2021, the IRS [clarified that Economic Impact Payments belong to recipients, not nursing homes or care facilities](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-alert-economic-impact-payments-belong-to-recipient-not-nursing-homes-or-care-facilities" \t "_blank). This policy is applicable to the second round of Economic Impact Payments.

Congregate residential settings are not permitted to take Economic Impact Payment money, even if a facility believes a resident owes money to the facility. Nor may a facility require an individual to allow it not the individual to manage and/or spend the money.

If you, or someone you care about, lives in an assisted living facility or nursing home, the FTC explains [here](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2021/01/stimulus-payments-people-not-nursing-homes) that the money is meant for the PERSON, not the place they might live.

**Important Notes for Social Security beneficiaries:**

Eligible Social Security (***including SSDI and SSI)***, Veterans Administration, and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries who don’t normally file taxes will ***automatically***receive economic impact payments for eligible adults. Economic Impact Payments were an advance payment of the Recovery Rebate Credit. If you did not receive your Economic Impact Payment for yourself or an eligible child, you may be eligible to claim the credit by filing a 2020 1040 or 1040-SR for free using the [IRS Free File program](https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free). Economic impact payments will not be counted as income for SSI recipients.

**SSI Recipients and Economic Impact Payments (Update from National Center for Law and Elder Rights 8/24/2021)**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who do not typically file a tax return should have received their third economic impact payment (EIP) automatically in April 2021. Those who receive their SSI benefits electronically by direct deposit or Direct Express Card should have received their EIP in the same way around April 7. Those who receive their monthly SSI benefits by check in the mail were mailed paper check EIPs beginning April 9.   
The Social Security Administration (SSA) will not count any of the EIPs as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months after receipt. Many SSI recipients received their first EIP under the CARES Act in May 2020. They are now approaching the end of the 12-month exclusion period for the first EIPs starting on June 1, 2021, when any remaining CARES Act EIP funds they still have which puts them over the $2,000 resource limit ($3,000 for an eligible couple) will be counted as a resource, and they will lose their eligibility for SSI for that month. SSI recipients and their payees must take care to be sure they have spent down their CARES Act EIP funds before 12 months have passed since they received the payment. Since EIP funds are not the same as SSI benefits, individuals are not limited in what they can spend these funds on and can spend down on whatever they wish, including on gifts and charitable contributions.

Additional details from the National Center on Law and Elder Rights update can be found [HERE](https://ncler.salsalabs.org/ssiandeips" \t "_blank).

**Information about Stimulus Payments and Representative Payees**

The National Center on Law and Elder Rights has issued an [FAQ document](https://ncler.acl.gov/getattachment/Resources/Stimulus-Payments-and-Rep-Payees.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=cde03810-62b7-4df1-b5b7-842410927e43) that answers questions about stimulus payments and representative payees. SSA has also [provided answers to common questions](https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/) about representative payees and Economic Impact Payments.

**Third**

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021thirdPmost recent (either 2019 or 2020)

Distribution of payment began in March 2021. thir