



## Second Stimulus Payment (Economic Impact Payment)

### When and how will the additional economic impact payments (EIPs) be distributed?

A second stimulus payment will be available, the details of which are as follows:

- A onetime stimulus payment of **\$600 for each individual**
  - A onetime stimulus payment of **\$1,200 for married or joint filers**
  - A one-time stimulus payment of **\$600 for any dependents age 16 and under**
- In order to qualify for the full second stimulus payment, ***you will need to have earned less than \$75,000 (for individuals) or \$150,000 (for married/joint filers) in 2019.***
- ***If your adjusted gross income is higher than those thresholds, then the stimulus payment is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of adjusted gross income over those thresholds.*** As a result, a single tax filer would see no stimulus payment if their adjusted gross income is \$87,000 or higher.
- For a married couple with no children, their payment would phase out completely with ***adjusted gross income of \$174,000.***
- ***Your “adjusted gross income” can be found on line 8b of your 2019 IRS Form 1040 federal tax return.***

### When Will You Get Your Stimulus Payment?

- Payments have already begun with the first electronic stimulus payments being sent within one week of the bill passing. The first people to get payments will be those that have their direct deposit bank information on file with the IRS, so be sure to read *How to Get Your Second Stimulus Payment Direct Deposited to Your Bank Account*. Otherwise, check payments will likely take several months to arrive.

### If my income was lower in 2020 than in 2019, how does that affect my EIP?

- The EIP amount to which you are entitled is determined by your 2020 income. As described above, many individuals and families will receive payment automatically in early 2021 based on their 2019 tax return information.
- Accordingly, for individuals and families who experienced a drop in income between 2019 and 2020, the EIP amount they receive automatically may be less than what they are entitled to based on their 2020 income.

### **Is there a limit on the number of qualifying children taken into account?**

- No.

### **Are individuals who rely solely on disability benefits eligible for the second round of EIP?**

- No. Adults with disabilities who are considered dependents for tax purposes are once again ineligible for the latest round of cash payments.

### **Are individuals who receive Social Security benefits eligible for the second round of EIP?**

- Yes. Social Security benefits for retirement, disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will be eligible for the stimulus payments.
- **What about Social Security recipients and other federal beneficiaries?**  
You also will not need to take any additional steps to receive the second stimulus payment if you already receive federal benefits through any of these programs:
  - Social Security Old-Age retirement, Survivors or Disability Insurance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries
- Veterans Administration (VA) beneficiaries

### **Are EIPs subject to federal income tax?**

No. The EIPs are federal income tax refunds and therefore are not subject to federal income tax

### **How will a person who has recently moved access the EIP?**

If a person has provided direct deposit information on a 2019 income tax return that has been processed, the IRS will use that information to issue an electronic payment. Otherwise, generally, a person should look at IRS's website for guidance on providing direct deposit information or a change of address to the IRS.

### **Will the EIP affect my eligibility for federal income-targeted programs?**

No, the EIP is considered a tax refund and is not counted towards eligibility for federal programs.

## **New PPP Loans and Rules**

- The new act reopened the popular Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by allocating an additional \$285 billion for the program. Small businesses that obtained an initial PPP loan can qualify for a second round of loans. More flexible rules have been added to provide for forgiveness of the loans, including clear guidelines that forgiveness of a PPP loan is not taxable.
- However, eligibility for a second PPP loan is stricter than before. A borrower will have to have **fewer than 300 employees, and be able to establish, in general, that they experienced a 25% drop in gross receipts during the first, second, or third quarter in 2020 relative to that same quarter in 2019.**

**The new act caps PPP loans at \$2 million. The act also sets aside \$12 billion specifically for minority-owned businesses.**

- Expand the use of PPP funds to include new expenses and help hard hit industries like restaurants. These new expenses, which are also eligible for forgiveness, are:

- personal protective equipment (PPE) and adaptive investments to help small business owners comply with health and safety guidelines;
- operations expenditures for payments on software and other items for human resources and accounting needs;
- supplier costs that are essential to business operations, including perishable goods; and
- property damage caused by public disturbances that aren't otherwise covered by insurance.

**Add specific types of group insurance payments, such group life, disability and vision, and dental insurance as eligible for payroll costs.**

### **Strengthen and Improve PPP**

The bill includes a number of provisions to improve the PPP, it would:

- expand eligibility to small nonprofits, including 501(c)(6), destination marketing organizations (DMOs), and housing cooperatives with 300 or fewer employees, provided their lobbying activities do not exceed 15 percent of their lobbying activities and the cost of their lobbying activities does not exceed \$1,000,000;
- Expand eligibility to news organizations with 500 or fewer employees;
- create more flexibility so borrowers can select their covered period for their loan between 8 and 24 weeks;
- ensure borrowers are eligible for both PPP and EIDL simultaneously, so long as the EIDL is used for purposes other than PPP-covered payroll expenses; and
- provide \$50 million for PPP auditing and fraud mitigation purposes.

### **Streamline Forgiveness for Small-dollar Loans**

• To reduce onerous paperwork for borrowers and lenders, the bill requires borrowers with loans up to \$150,000 to submit a one-page certification with only essential information to their lenders and preserve documentation to substantiate in the event the Administration audits the loan.

### **Limit Total PPP Loan Amount to \$2 Million For Small Businesses with Multiple Locations**

• To ensure the PPP funding is targeted to small businesses, the bill would limit the total amount of the loans to \$2 million for small businesses with multiple locations.

### **Ensure PPP funding is Targeted to Small Businesses, Not Large Publicly Funded Companies**

• The bill would prevent publicly traded companies from receiving PPP funds.

### **Tax Provisions Clarification of Tax Treatment of Paycheck Protection Program Loans**

- The provision clarifies that gross income does not include any amount that would otherwise arise from the forgiveness of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan.
- This provision also clarifies that deductions are allowed for otherwise deductible expenses paid with the proceeds of a PPP loan that is forgiven, and that the tax basis and other attributes of the borrower's assets will not be reduced as a result of the loan forgiveness.
- The provision is effective as of the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

## **Small Business**

### **Grants for Shuttered Venue Operators**

- The bill authorizes \$15 billion for the SBA to make grants to eligible live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators, or talent representatives who demonstrate a 25 percent reduction in revenues.
- There is a set-aside of \$2 billion for eligible entities that employ not more than 50 full-time employees, and any amounts from this set-aside remaining after sixty days from the date of implementation of this program shall become available to all eligible applicants under this section.
- The SBA may make an initial grant of up to \$10 million dollars to an eligible person or entity and a supplemental grant that is equal to 50 percent of the initial grant.
- In the initial 14-day period of implementation of the program, grants shall only be awarded to eligible entities that have faced 90 percent or greater revenue loss.
- In the 14-day period following the initial 14- day period, grants shall only be awarded to eligible entities that have faced 70 percent or greater revenue loss. After these two periods, grants shall be awarded to all other eligible entities.
- Such grants shall be used for specified expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities, and personal protective equipment.
- The bill requires the Administrator to conduct increased oversight of eligible persons and entities receiving these grants.
- The bill also requires the SBA to submit a report to the Senate and House Small Business Committees 45 days after enactment detailing their oversight and audit plan for shuttered venue grants and to provide monthly updates on the oversight and audit activities conducted by the Administrator.

### **Is there an extension of the debt relief program?**

- Yes, the payment of principal and interest (P&I) on small business loans guaranteed by the SBA under the 7(a), 504 and microloan programs, established under the CARES Act.
- All borrowers with qualifying loans approved by the SBA prior to the CARES Act will receive an additional three months of P&I, starting in February 2021. Going forward, those payments will be **capped at \$9,000 per borrower per month**.
- After the three-month period described above, borrowers considered to be underserved—namely the smallest or hardest-hit by the pandemic—will receive an additional five months of P&I payments, also capped at \$9,000 per borrower per month. They include:
  - Borrowers with SBA microloans or 7(a) Community Advantage loans
  - Borrowers with any 7(a) or 504 loan in the hardest-hit sectors, as measured by the severity of sector-wide job losses since the start of the pandemic. They include food service and accommodation; arts, entertainment and recreation; education; and laundry and personal care services.
- SBA payments of P&I on the first 6 months of newly approved loans will resume for all loans approved between February 1 and September 30, 2021, also capped at \$9,000 per month.
- If the SBA projects that appropriations provided for the debt relief program are insufficient to fund the extensions provided, the Administrator may proportionally reduce the number of months provided in each extension.
- The bill clarifies eligibility and increases program integrity:

- SBA payments should be made on any loan approved before the applicable deadline, and debt relief payments should be made only once the loan is fully disbursed.
- SBA may establish a minimum loan maturity period for each loan product covered under this section to prevent program abuse.
- Any business or applicant may only receive P&I payments for only one loan approved after CARES Act enactment.
- The bill requires that SBA place program information on its website, conduct outreach to all borrowers, report monthly to Congress on program spending, and educate lenders, borrowers, SBA district offices, and resources partners about the program.

### **Unemployment Benefits**

- The new relief act **provides an additional \$300 per week** for all workers receiving unemployment benefits, through March 14, 2021 (and possibly longer).
- On December 27, 2020, a federal COVID-19 relief package that extends and provides additional federal unemployment benefits was signed into law. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, (MDES) is reviewing the new unemployment provisions and preparing to reprogram its system to process claims for the additional benefits.
- As was the case with previous federal unemployment programs, MDES must receive guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor before it can fully implement the changes and begin issuing payments. As guidelines are made available, MDES will make information public or notify individuals of their eligibility.
- . The act also extends the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, with expanded coverage for independent contractors, self-employed individuals, and gig workers.
- . The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program was also extended to provide additional weeks of federally funded unemployment benefits to individuals who exhaust their regular state benefits.
- . In addition, the new act increases the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim regular state unemployment benefits plus the PEUC program, or through the PUA program, to 50 weeks.

### **Rental/Eviction Provisions**

The new act provides for an extension of the eviction moratorium **through January 31, 2021**. There is also \$25 billion for rental relief, to be used for future rent and utility payments and back rent owed or utility bills. The provision is to help families and individuals pay their rent and utility bills and remain stably housed, while also helping rental property owners of all sizes continue to cover their costs, including the costs necessary to ensure residents' health and safety.

#### **Is there an extension of the eviction moratorium?**

- Yes. The COVID-19 Stimulus Package extends the CDC's eviction moratorium until January 31, 2021. This will help ensure that millions of renters across America are not evicted while waiting to receive assistance.

#### **What kind of assistance would renters receive?**

- Eligible renters would be able to receive assistance with rent and utility payments, unpaid rent or utility bills that have accumulated since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, and other housing expenses that were incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic.

- Eligible renters would also have access to services, such as case management and tenant-landlord mediation, to help them remain stably housed. A household may receive up to 12 months of assistance but may receive an additional three months of assistance only if it is necessary to ensure the household remains stably housed and funds are available.

**How would renters (and property owners) apply for, and receive, assistance?**

- Renters would apply for assistance with entities that state and local grantees select to administer the program. Once a renter qualifies for assistance, the administering entity would send the payment directly to the landlord.
- If a landlord declines to receive the assistance from the administering entity, a renter may instead receive a direct payment from the administering entity to make rental payments to their landlord themselves. Property owners could also assist renters to apply for rental assistance under the program or apply on behalf of the tenant, but will be required to notify the renter that assistance is being provided on their behalf and obtain their consent in the application.

**Applying for the renters assistance program in the State of Mississippi:**

- Individuals may contact their local community action agency (CAA) or human resource agency (HRA) to apply for both types of assistance. A list of these agencies is posted on the MDHS website at <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/>. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. CAAs/HRAs are encouraged to work with other state and local agencies to provide maximum coordination of services for households through referrals.
- Individuals who have never received services may submit a Pre Application through the Virtual ROMA website at <https://virtualroma.mdhs.ms.gov>. This site is available nationwide, but services and funds are for residents of Mississippi only.

**Who would be eligible to receive emergency rental assistance?**

- Eligible households are defined as renter households who:
  - (1) have a household income not more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI);
  - (2) have one or more household members who can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
  - (3) have one or more household members who qualify for unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic.
- Assistance would be prioritized for renter households with incomes that do not exceed 50 percent of AMI as well as renter households who are currently unemployed and have been unemployed for 90 days.
- In determining household income, the administering entity must consider the household's income for 2020 or the household's monthly income at the time of application for assistance, which must be recertified every three months if the household is receiving ongoing rental assistance.

**Student Loans**

- ***The new act does not include relief or further forbearance with respect to student loans.***

### **State and Local Funding**

- New state and local aid was not included in the final act. But the act does extend the deadline of when previously approved aid under the CARES Act must be spent.

### **EIDL Grants**

- The act added \$20 billion for certain grants pursuant to the SBA's Economic Disaster Injury Loan (EIDL) program.

- Eligible businesses, independent contractors, gig workers, and self-employed individuals are eligible for up to \$10,000 in grants (not required to be repaid) if:

- (1) they are located in a low-income community;
- (2) they suffered an economic loss of greater than 30% during an 8-week period between March 2, 2020, and December 17, 2021, relative to a comparable 8-week period immediately preceding March 2, 2020, or during 2019;
- (3) they employ not more than 300 people;
- (4) they are a qualifying business, such as a small business, private non-profit, sole proprietorship, or independent contractor; and
- (5) they were in operation by January 31, 2020.

### **How to Apply for the EIDL Grant Program?**

- To apply for a COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan, [click here](#).

### **To ensure struggling small businesses receive economic relief quickly, the bill would:**

- target the \$10,000 advance to low-income communities to ensure continuity, adaptation, and resiliency;
- permit small businesses in low-income communities that received an EIDL advance to receive additional funds, up to \$10,000;
- extend covered period for emergency EIDL grants through December 31, 2021;
- allow more flexibility for SBA to verify that emergency EIDL grant applicants have submitted accurate information;
- extend time for SBA to approve and disburse emergency EIDL grants from 3 to 21 days; and

### **Vaccine/Health Measures**

The new act sets aside almost \$70 billion for public health measures, including for the purchase of vaccines, vaccine distribution, and assistance for state testing and tracing programs.

- Starting Monday, January 4, MSDH will open 18 [drive-through sites](#) throughout the state to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to healthcare workers and health facilities staff. An appointment is required.

### Who Can Be Vaccinated

- Individuals 16 and older can receive the Pfizer vaccine, and those 18 and over can receive the Moderna vaccine.
- Pregnant women, lactating women and those who are immunocompromised may take the vaccine; however, consultation with your healthcare provider is recommended.

### Who Should Not Be Vaccinated

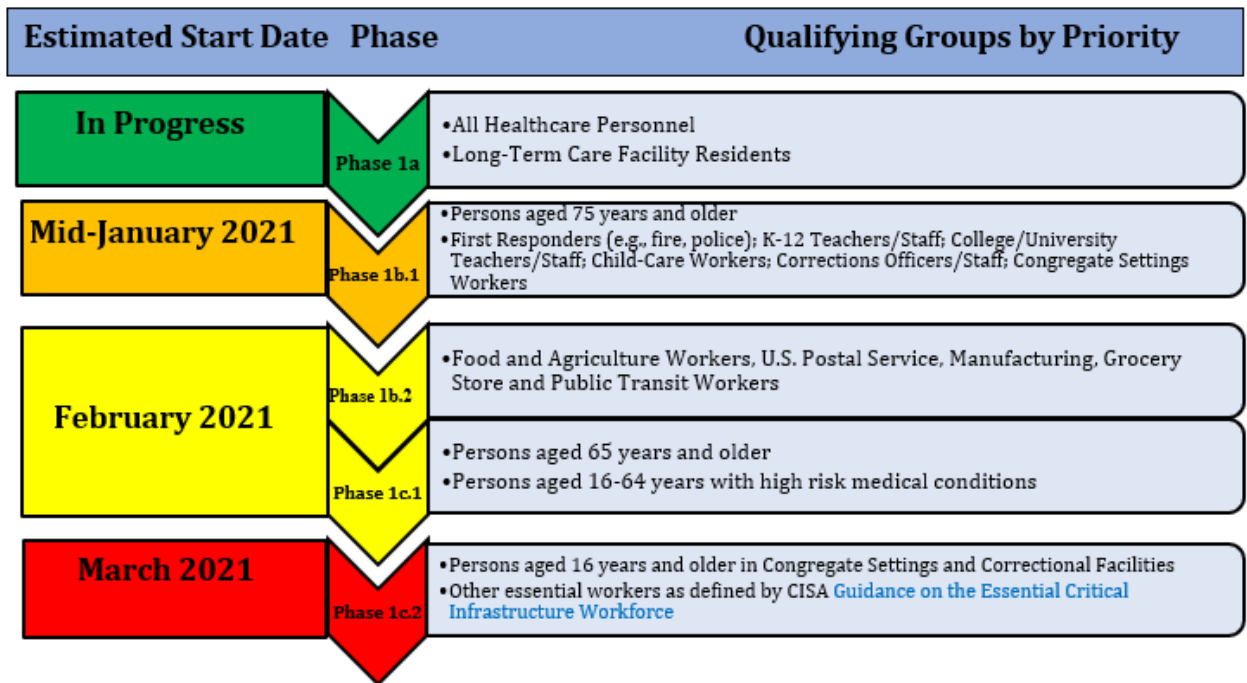
- You should not take the vaccine if you have had severe reactions from previous vaccines or injectable medications.

### If You Have Already Had COVID-19

- You **can** be vaccinated if you have tested positive for COVID-19 if you wait until your isolation period is over and your symptoms have significantly improved.

### What to Expect

- Two vaccinations, 21 to 28 days apart (depending on type of vaccine) will be required for full effectiveness.
- Like most vaccines, you should expect some soreness and fatigue for up to a day after vaccination, a sign that the body is developing a proper immune response.
- Large-scale testing of the vaccine has found no major side effects to the vaccine



- Specialty Crop Block Grants.** – The bill provides \$100 million in additional funding to support specialty crop farmers and address COVID-19 specialty crop supply chain issues at the state level via the farm bill’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.
- Local Agriculture Market Program.** – The bill provides \$100 million in additional funding to support local farmers, farmers markets, and value-added production for farmers and outlets who are impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions through the farm bill’s Local Agriculture Market Program. The Secretary may reduce matching requirements for these additional funds.
- Farming Opportunities Training And Outreach Program.** – The bill provides \$75 million to the farm bill’s Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program to support groups providing beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers with financial and marketing advice and technical assistance in this difficult market, including help



in accessing Federal and State assistance programs . The Secretary may reduce matching requirements for these additional funds.

- **Grants For Improvements To Meat And Poultry Facilities To Allow For Interstate Shipment.** – The bill provides \$60 million to make facility upgrade and planning grants to existing meat and poultry processors to help them move to Federal inspection and be able to sell their products across state lines. The bill also requires USDA to work with States and report on ways to improve the existing Cooperative Interstate Shipment program.
- **Emergency Food Assistance Program.** – Invests \$400 million in the Emergency Food Assistance Program through September 30, 2021. Allows up to 20 percent of these funds to be used for commodity distribution.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program.** – Provides \$13 million to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, 20% of which may be used for administrative costs through September 30, 2021

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

- Recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will receive Emergency Allotments (supplements) in January 2021. These emergency benefits will be made available on January 5, 2021, for SNAP cases with a paid benefit for January. SNAP households approved for benefits during the month of January will receive the supplemental payment two (2) days after case approval.
- Due to legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President, SNAP households will receive a 15% increase in benefits from January 2021 through June 2021. This benefit increase will be in addition to the Emergency Allotments being made available beginning January 5, 2021. For example, a one-person household receiving the maximum amount of \$204 January 5 will receive an additional 15% benefit, or \$30, during the month of January.
- At this time, the issuance date for the additional 15% benefit is uncertain. The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) is making the necessary updates to our SNAP Benefits System and will make a public notification once the issuance date is determined.

### **Department of Education**

The bill authorizes:

- \$82 billion Education Stabilization Fund: Flexible funding to support the educational needs of States, school districts, and institutions of higher education and the students they serve in response to coronavirus.
- \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
  - Formula funding to States and school districts to help schools respond to coronavirus, including new allowable uses of funds for:
    - school facilities repairs and improvements, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems projects to improve indoor air quality in school facilities, and
    - addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.
- \$4.1 billion for the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund, including:
  - \$2.75 billion for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools grants
  - Language prohibiting States from using any funds to support vouchers or tax credit scholarship programs

- \$22.7 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
  - \$20.2 billion for public and private, non-profit institutions of higher education, including those that serve students enrolled exclusively in distance education, to be distributed by a formula taking into account head count and full-time equivalent enrollment
  - \$1.7 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and certain other institutions.
  - \$113 million for institutions of higher education with unmet need
  - Cap on funding for proprietary institutions and restrictions on use of funds.
- \$11 million for National Technical Institute for the Deaf in direct support for this university, created by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act, including support for students.
- \$28 million for the Institute of Education Sciences to cover the coronavirus related costs of implementing National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments.
- \$50 million total for Student Aid Administration, Program Administration, and the Office of the Inspector General.