

Economic Stimulus

Your questions, answered

A lot of readers are wondering how much money they can expect from the stimulus bill. Our [handy check calculator](#) will estimate how much you're eligible for based on your income and tax filing status, and here are quick answers to some common questions:

Do we have to apply or will they be sent automatically? — Micah in Valley Forge, Pa.

No application necessary. The check will be automatically deposited in your bank account or mailed to you if filed taxes in 2018 or 2019. If you are on Social Security and don't file taxes, the government will still send the payment using the contact information on your benefits statement.

Micah also asks: What about a couple filing jointly where one person makes \$110,000 and the other makes \$20,000?

Per our reporting, "married couples are eligible for a \$2,400 check as long as their adjusted gross income is under \$150,000 a year." Couples making up to \$198,000 a year get less money. Remember that couples also receive an additional \$500 for each child.

Does the payout include the retired and the elderly, those in that group who are not employed? —Steven in Portland, Ore.

Yes. Retirees and individuals on disability assistance or social security are eligible for payments, if their total income including benefits doesn't exceed the maximum (up to \$99,000 a year for individuals).

How much of a direct payment can a head of household expect with an adult dependent? — Anita in Bowie, Md.

A head of household who makes up to \$112,500 a year is eligible for a \$1,200 check — or a smaller check if they make up to \$136,500 a year.

I live alone, on disability, and am technically a dependent of my parents (but over 26). I don't have any income to pay taxes on so I'm not a 'taxpayer.' Do I benefit from the relief bill or am I counted as a 'child' on my parents'? — Anonymous

The way the bill was written in the Senate, no. Dependents who can be claimed on someone else's tax return won't receive checks.

--Washington Post, 2020-03-26