



for homeless people and non-filers

STREET SPIRITS GUIDE TO GETTING YOUR STIMULUS CHECK

adult dependents of U.S. taxpayers are now eligible to receive the \$1,400 payments. This time, that includes people 17 and up.

The IRS has closed the form that non-filers used to access their stimulus money in 2020. Instead of using that form, they are asking all non-filers to fill out a simplified tax return, which can be found at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>. This is due on April 15th. (A list of organizations that can help you file a simplified tax return can be found at the end of the zine.)

First, you will need your Social Security number.

If you do not have your Social Security number, you will need a government issued ID and a mailing address to request a new card from the Social Security Administration. This task can be accomplished online. (If you need help getting a mailing address, or a government issued ID, some places are listed below.)

Next, you need to access the IRS website.

You will need access to a smartphone or computer with an internet connection in order

4 to access the IRS website. The IRS is accepting

You can access a variety of migrant-focused COVID-19 resources at tinyurl.com/COVIDUndocResources. (Compiled by East Oakland Dreamers.)
Puede obtener a una variedad de recursos COVID-19 enfocados en migrantes en tinyurl.com/COVIDUndocResources. (Compilado por East Oakland Dreamers.)

RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE IN THE BAY AREA

Mission Economic Development Agency
Visit <https://medast.org/programs/free-tax-preparation/> for virtual assistance with tax filings. Services are also available in Spanish.

AARP Tax Aide
Visit <https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/> to make an appointment for virtual or in-person tax assistance.

support at their San Francisco office. Tax-Aid is also able to assist with past years' tax returns.

Thursday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Simply list their address as the location for your ID to be delivered. Their addresses are:

Berkeley:

3126 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705

Oakland:

2601 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, CA 94612

General Delivery Mail Service (San Francisco)

Anyone without a permanent address can have their mail delivered to any United States Postal Office that accepts General Delivery. In San Francisco, that address is:

391 Ellis Street San Francisco, CA 94102

To pick up your mail, you will need a government issued ID with a first and last name that matches the name on your mail. More information about general delivery here.

TAX ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

(Courtesy of Bay Area Legal Aid)

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. 13

GETTING YOUR STIMULUS CHECK

If the following describes you, you may need to sign up online in order to get your stimulus check:

1. You are a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, or a "U.S. resident alien" with a social security number. (There is a website on the last page of of the zine with mutual aid resources for undocumented people.)
2. You have a Social Security number.
3. You are a "non-filer," meaning you haven't filed a tax return in the last two years because you did not earn enough income.
4. Your annual income is under \$75,000. If you are married and filing jointly, the threshold is \$150,000.
5. Unlike the first two rounds of stimulus money,³

Legal Aid's legal advice hotline: (800) 551-5554.

more information about this, you can call Bay Area Economic Impact Payment if you only started getting these benefits after a certain date). For example, you may not automatically receive your even if you are receiving these services (for might not have received your stimulus payment receive your benefits. There are a few reasons you

This guide will walk you through the process of applying for your stimulus money. It also contains useful resources for obtaining the documents you need to apply, as well as information about where to cash it free of charge without a bank account.

In March, President Biden signed the America Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill that makes it possible for the majority of U.S. citizens to receive a one-time payment of \$1,400 (or more if you have children).

While many will soon receive their stimulus checks without taking any extra steps, you might be wondering: "How do I get that money the government promised me?"

If you do not automatically receive your payment via direct deposit or in the mail, this guide will help point you in the right direction. It will also walk you through the process of depositing stimulus checks free of charge.

Note: If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income or State Disability Insurance, your Economic Impact Payment will arrive automatically through whatever means you

VITA – UC Hastings Low Income Tax Clinic

Register for virtual tax assistance at <https://www.uchastings.edu/academics/pro-bono/vita/>.

14 Appointments are available between February

make an appointment by calling (510) 645-9352. If you do not have access to a computer, you can more information, including locations and hours. visit <https://alamedakids.org/resource-directory/> program uploads/155_1166_6097959266.pdf for phone number or an e-mail address. Please schedule an appointment online at <https://public.alamedasocialservices.org/EITCSchedulr>. Please note that you will need to provide a cell To make an appointment, you need to register and

Alameda County Social Services Agency – Earn it! Keep it! Save it!

Call (510) 535-6101 to make an in-person appointment. Visit <https://unitycouncil.org/> program/vita/ for more information.

Unity Council

and any recent tax documents: ask you for identification, your Social Security card, require you to make an appointment, and will also Please note that most of these organizations will

22, 2021 and April 12, 2021.

San Antonio Community Development Center
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.

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
Visit <https://earnitkeepitsaveit.org/> or call 211.

Tax-Aid
Visit <https://tax-aid.org/> or call (415) 229-9240 to make an appointment for virtual or in-person **15**

If you are struggling to fill out your non-filer form or have other questions about your stimulus check, you can call the Bay Area Legal Advice Line (local phone numbers listed here). You

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you are struggling to fill out a whole new form.

coronavirus/get-my-payment before going through

status of your payment at <https://www.irs.gov/>

either of the 2020 stimulus checks, check on the

Note: If you think you already applied to receive

out your simplified tax return.

for a tax rebate which you can claim when you fill

but still haven't received them, you could qualify

qualified for any of the earlier stimulus payments

in 2020 has passed. However, if you would have

\$600 checks Economic Impact Payments issued

The deadline for non-filers to claim the \$1,200 and

did not receive them

I qualified for the stimulus checks in 2020 but

new form.

before going through the trouble to fill out a whole

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

check on the status of your \$1,400 payment at

Note: If you did receive the 2020 stimulus checks,

check.

and Kittredge Monday-Saturday from 7:00 a.m.

to 9:00 a.m. The mail service is free of charge,

and no government issued ID is required to

retrieve mail. For more information, you can call

JC at (510) 684-1892.

Berkeley Drop in Center (south Berkeley)

To receive mail through the Berkeley Drop in

Center, simply list their address as your mailing

address:

3234 Adeline Street

Berkeley, CA 94703

You may pick up mail from the Berkeley Drop in

Center on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.

to 3:00 p.m.

You must show your ID to pick up your mail.

Homeless Action Center (HAC)

If you are not already a client of HAC, you cannot

have your regular mail sent here. However, you

can send certain emergency documents to HAC

even if you are not a client. These include ID cards

and birth certificates. However, HAC is unable

to accept your stimulus check *unless* you are

already a client.

12 HAC is currently open from Monday to

the new, \$1,400 payment.

8 information to the IRS website in order to receive

of payments, you may still have to submit

If you applied as a non-filer in the last rounds

check

and want to make sure I get the new stimulus

I received my \$1,200 and \$600 checks in 2020,

LAST ROUND?

WHAT IF I APPLIED AS A NON-FILER IN THE

“cash a check” feature.

your stimulus check directly into Venmo using their

option for people with bank accounts is to deposit

you a free debit card after you sign up. Another

offer a separate Cash Card service, which will send

to deposit their stimulus check for free. They also

this. PayPal is allowing people with bank accounts

you do not need to have a bank account to do

debit card connected to your account balance—

service. Once you sign up, they will send you a free

checks for free. Cash App offers a Cash Card

Cash App is allowing users to deposit their stimulus

account.

There are a few digital alternatives to a checking

check.

paper forms, but recommends non filers use their

free tax filing service, <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>, to speed

up processing.

Even though most libraries are currently closed,

you can still connect to the internet outside most

libraries when sitting outside. Certain cellphones

are also able to produce wifi hotspots.

You will also need an email address.

You will need an email address in order to make an

account on the IRS website. Your account will allow

you to check on the status of your payment after

you've submitted all your information.

Other documents

In addition to your social security number, you may

need a few other documents to file your simplified

tax return. You will need any income statements

you received from recent employers (W2's or

1099's), any records you have of governmental aid

received (for example, Medi-Cal or Unemployment)

and information on any dependents you might

have.

Lastly, you need a mailing address to receive the

check or pre-paid debit card.

5

7 **You could also open a checking account** If you're worried about carrying that much cash, however, you might consider opening up a checking account with your local credit union. Banks are considered essential services, and remain open. If you are not comfortable walking into the bank, many traditional banks are also accepting online checking account applications. Golden 1 Credit Union is accepting online applications. Mechanics Bank is also accepting online applications. Both banks have mobile banking apps, which allow you to use your smartphone's camera to deposit your stimulus

Cash it at a local store Many grocery stores will cash your check for a low fee. Walmart, for example, will allow you to cash your stimulus check for a fee of between \$4 and \$8. Other grocery stores where you can cash a check for a low fee include Albertsons and Kroger-owned markets.

The fastest way to receive your stimulus payment is by direct deposit. However, if you don't have a checking account, you can still claim your stimulus payment, it will just take longer to get to you.

If you do not have a bank account, and you did not sign up for direct deposit when filing your simplified tax return, that means your stimulus payment will arrive as a prepaid debit card or a paper check in the mail. (The IRS will decide who gets a debit card instead of a paper check.)

If you don't have a bank account, there are several places where you can sign up for a mailing address while living unsheltered. Amongst other options, you can go to the Berkeley DropIn Center in South Berkeley or sign up to receive mail through Catholic Worker.

If you do receive a prepaid debit card, your card will arrive in a plain envelope (many people threw theirs out last year thinking it was junk mail!), and you will need to go online to <https://www.eipcard.com> and set it up before you can access the \$1,400.

If you get a paper check, keep reading to learn how to deposit it.

6 DEPOSITING YOUR STIMULUS CHECK

10 The DMV is not currently accepting new California DMV have reopened. ID application. Fortunately, all branches of the DMV location to fill out a new process is a little more complicated. You will need a number. If you don't currently have an ID, that need a government issued ID, or at least your ID in addition to your Social Security number, you

HOW TO GET A NEW ID CARD OR DRIVERS LICENSE

Keep reading for a list of organizations that can assist you in filing a simplified tax return. Having trouble. Point or Bay Area Legal Aid's website if you're receive your stimulus payment. Check out Tipping help walk you through the process of applying to There are also other online resources that can or San Francisco Human Services. Keep it Save it, Alameda County Social Services, also be able to receive assistance through Earn it one appointment with a volunteer lawyer. You may Public Library that allows you to make a one-on-the Library, a free program hosted by the Oakland can also schedule an appointment with Lawyers in

appointments, so if you have to go, try to get in line before they open to save yourself some time. A new ID without the fee waiver costs \$30. To obtain a fee waiver, you can visit Homeless Action Center or Roots Community Health Center during their open hours. You will need to provide proof of your enrollment in EBT or CalWorks in order to qualify for a fee waiver.

OPEN DMVS

All California DMVs have reopened. Applying for a reduced fee or no-fee ID card qualifies as a transaction that requires an in-person visit. So does any commercial Driver License transaction. In certain cases ID renewal can be completed online due to the pandemic. Find out more at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/driver-license-id-card-online-renewal/>.

WHERE TO SIGN UP FOR A MAILING ADDRESS

Night on the Streets Catholic Worker (Downtown Berkeley)

To receive mail through the Catholic Worker, you must first sign up with JC Orton. You can find him in his navy-blue van on the corner of Shattuck 11