



Press Release

For More Information
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Stimulus Payment of \$250 for Social Security Recipients in May

Denver, CO. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the stimulus payment is providing a one-time benefit of \$250 for recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits. Individuals will receive a separate one-time payment in late May or early June either through direct deposit at their bank or by paper checks.

Individuals who were receiving Social Security or SSI in the month of November 2008, December 2008 or January 2009 will be eligible to receive a stimulus payment. Individuals who qualified for Social Security or SSI in February 2009 will not be eligible for the benefit.

If both spouses receive Social Security, both parties will receive \$250 for a total of \$500. However, individuals who are receiving both SSI and Social Security will receive only one payment. Similarly individuals receiving Social Security and/or Veterans benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits will receive only one payment.

Individuals who receive this payment will not have to count the economic recovery payment as gross income for federal income tax purposes. Nor will it affect eligibility for SSI. Similarly individuals will not have to count the stimulus payment as income when determining eligibility for Extra Help with the Medicare Prescription Drug plan.

For individuals who have a representative payee, the stimulus payment will be sent to the representative payee in the same manner as the monthly benefit. For those who receive Social Security on the Direct Express Card the payment will be deposited on the Card.

The stimulus payment will not count as a resource for those receiving SSI in the month in which the payment is received, nor will not count as a resource for nine months from date it is received. Therefore, starting in March 2010, it will be counted as a resource for SSI beneficiaries.

Disabled children who are receiving SSI will receive the one-time payment, however, children under the age of 18 (19 if they are still in high school) who receive Social Security benefits are not eligible. Disabled adult children will also receive a payment.

This one-time payment will not be used to collect Social Security or SSI overpayments; however, it can be used to collect delinquent child support and debts owed to state and federal agencies.

For more information, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or 303-333-3482.

Eileen Doherty, M.S. is the Executive Director of Senior Answers and Services and the Colorado Gerontological Society. She has more than 35 years of experience in gerontology in administration, research, training and education, and clinical practice. She can be reached at 303-333-3482 or at doherty001@att.net.