

# Economic Stimulus Payment Fact Sheet

In March, more than 130 million American households will begin receiving IRS letters giving them general information about the Economic Stimulus Payments and advising them that to receive a 2008 stimulus payment, all they have to do is file a 2007 tax return.

- ◆ Taxpayers who already file using a 1040 tax form to comply with the April 15 filing deadline do not need to do anything additional to receive their one-time economic stimulus payment.
- ◆ A separate IRS mailing will go out in late March to people *who no longer file* tax returns—certain recipients of Social Security and veterans disability benefits—explaining what they will need to do to receive their one-time economic stimulus payment and providing the necessary guidance and forms.
- ◆ There is plenty of time to get help and apply for the payment. April 15 will NOT be the deadline for those who no longer file tax returns. The deadline for the economic stimulus payment form will likely be sometime in the fall of 2008.
- ◆ People who do not need to file a tax return but who received at least \$3,000 from a combination of Social Security benefits, veterans benefits and earned income in 2007, must submit a simplified version of a 1040A tax form to the IRS in order to receive a stimulus payment. The minimum payment for this group will be \$300 for an individual and \$600 for a couple filing jointly.
- ◆ This payment has nothing to do with income tax refunds. But for those who do file, the IRS will start mailing economic stimulus payments in May based on Social Security numbers (not when you filed your tax return).
- ◆ Income tax refunds will be made separately from this one-time payment.
- ◆ All communications will come from the IRS in writing. Avoid providing information to those who communicate in other ways.
- ◆ The IRS will never call or email asking for your Social Security number or bank account information.
- ◆ The IRS will never send a letter or email asking for a response by phone or email, and they will never ask to come to a person's home.
- ◆ Never pay anyone or go through a third party intermediary to apply for or speed up the payment process. Always contact the IRS directly with any questions. By phone: **1-800-829-1040**; online: **[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)**.

- ◆ AARP Tax-Aide\* stands ready to help. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are prepared to assist those in need, including first-time filers. Now in its 40th year, the AARP Tax-Aide program offers free tax assistance and preparation for people of low and middle income, with special attention to those age 60 and older.
- ◆ For information, call **1-888-227-7669** or visit the website at **www.aarp.org/taxaide**. Volunteers are trained to prepare standard forms including those needed to get stimulus payments, and most sites are equipped to handle e-filing. Sites are open through April 15. Some MAY be open through the end of April, but please check with the volunteers at the site first to be sure.
- ◆ You can also go to our website at **www.aarp.org/taxaide** to find additional information or to ask a

question about the stimulus payments. An IRS-certified AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer will respond. All answers are reviewed by a second volunteer before they are emailed to the person who asked the question.

- ◆ For additional help:
  - ◆ Go to **www.IRS.gov**.
  - ◆ Call the IRS at **1-800-829-1040**.
  - ◆ Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Find one by calling **1-800-906-9887**.
  - ◆ Visit an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC) by calling **1-800-829-1040** and ask for the closest site near you.

*\*AARP Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation Program.*

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