



Important Covid Notice!

Tax Credit for Minor Children:

Beginning July 15, 2021 parents with minor children will begin receiving a monthly cash payment to help with child rearing expenses as follows:

\$300 per child age 5 or under
\$250 per child age 6 through 17

This money is authorized to be paid under the American Recovery Act, passed by Congress last March. The money will start being sent to you automatically if you have filed a Federal income tax return in either 2019 or 2020 or submitted a non-filers income tax return in order to get a Covid stimulus payment. You will get the payment the same way you received your income tax refund or Covid stimulus payment.

If you did not file a Federal income tax return in either 2019 or 2020 or a non-filers tax return you will have to go to the following website to apply for your tax credit payments:

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-filer-sign-up-tool>

Expanded Unemployment Benefits:

If you or anyone you know has been:

1. Laid off or lost their job, or;
2. Is an independent contractor (gets a 1099 for miscellaneous income), or runs a small business and cannot earn income or has reduced income from their business due to Covid (self-employed benefits available until September 4, 2021)

Should apply for unemployment call: 1-888-313-7284 or apply online at:
<https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/default.aspx>

You may have to be persistent to get through to get your unemployment claim filed due to the high number of persons currently needing unemployment benefits. Call Northwestern Legal Services for help at 800-665-6957 or online at nwls.org if you file for unemployment and your claim is denied or not processed.

On March 11 the Pandemic Unemployment program was extended until September 4, 2021. This will provide an additional 11 weeks of benefits beyond the normal entitlement of 26 weeks. In addition, an additional \$300 per week will be added to each unemployment check until August 31, 2021.

\$1,400 Stimulus for Adults/\$1,400 for Children:

On March 11 an additional stimulus check under the American Rescue Plan Act was authorized in the amount of \$1,400 per adult and dependent child. This additional stimulus should arrive in the near future by direct deposit or mail if you did not set up direct deposit with the IRS, Social Security or other federal benefit program to which you may be entitled.

You can go to this website to inquire about the status of any of your stimulus checks:
irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment

IMPORTANT: If you did not get the previously issued \$1,200 (\$500 for dependent children) stimulus check and/or the additional \$600, you can file a 2020 Federal Income Tax return and request it in the return by completing the “Recovery Rebate Credit” section of the return.

You do not need to have any reportable income to file a tax return in order to request your stimulus check(s).

More information on how to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit can be found at:
<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit>