COVID-19: Stimulus Checks

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The answers below are not intended to be legal advice. To receive legal advice, you can contact an attorney through the legal aid resources listed below.
Who is eligible for the stimulus checks?
You are eligible for a stimulus check if you 1) are a United States resident who is 16 or older, 2) have a social security number, 3) make less than $75k a year, 4) are not claimed as a dependent on anyone’s taxes.

How do I apply for the stimulus checks?
• If you are eligible, and you have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, no further action is needed!
• If you have not filed, then file taxes here.
  o if your income is less than $12,000, use the non-filers portal here.

NOTE: You need your social security number to use these forms. To get your social security number, call the social security administration office at (800)772-1213. You will need to answer questions to verify your identity, such as your parent’s names and your birthplace.

You can receive payment anytime in 2020 after completing this step!

How will I receive my stimulus check?
You will receive your stimulus check either one of two ways.
1. Direct Deposit—If you entered the information on your tax return. This is the quickest method. To check the status of your payment or add/update information go here. Enrollment for direct deposit ends Wednesday, May 13, 2020.
2. Mailed Check—If you do not have direct deposit information on file. If you have moved, you will need to update your address.

I was unable to meet the deadline to secure the $500 stimulus check payment for my children. What can I do?
On August 14, 2020, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reopened the registration period for those who didn’t receive the payments earlier. File here before September 30, 2020. Find more information about the reopening period here.

Where can I find other local resources in King County?
• If you need assistance setting up a bank account or setting up Cash App for your stimulus check contact YMCA. For more information, see Accelerator Y Tax Guide here or contact abeasley@seattlemca.org.
• Sound Community Bank offers COVID-19 resources here.
  o Sound Community Bank Phone: (800) 458-5585
• If you need help filing your taxes, please contact the United Way King County here.
• If you are homeless and want more information on the stimulus payments and eligibility, more information can be found at Baker-McKenzie resources for homeless youth here.
SCAM ALERT: The IRS will not call you or email you about stimulus money. If you are contacted by someone via phone or email claiming to be from the IRS offering stimulus money but requiring personal financial information or fees/gifts cards before sending it, it is a scam. Do not click the link or provide any information.

**Where can I find a lawyer to help me?**
If you are between the ages of 12-24, in King County or Walla Walla County, LCYC may be able to assist you with this issue. Please contact us at 206-494-0323 or yhp.kc@lcycwa.org. More information about services and intake sites is available online at www.lcycwa.com. By contacting LCYC for a referral, LCYC does not automatically become your lawyer. LCYC will respond to you directly to gather more information to see if we can help.

**If you are a youth over the age of 16 or a young adult in King County of Walla Walla Counties and you have any of the questions below, please contact us directly.**

- What if I am in extended foster care? Am I eligible?
- What if I am in foster care? Am I eligible?
- What if I don’t know if I am a dependent?
- What if I don’t have identification or don’t know my social security number?
- What if I am not old enough to set up a bank account on my own?
- What if I am in debt and the bank might garnish my stimulus money?

Please contact LCYC at 206-494-0323. By contacting LCYC for a referral, LCYC does not automatically become your lawyer. LCYC will respond to you directly to gather more information to see if we can help.

**Special Thank You to A Way Home, Accelerator Y, and Baker McKenzie for their work in gathering information.**

**For other general legal advice IN KING COUNTY, call 2-1-1, open weekdays from 8am-6pm.**

**For general legal aid advice OUTSIDE OF KING COUNTY, call the CLEAR HOTLINE at 1-888-201-1014, open weekdays between 915am – 12:15pm.**