

Background

Starting in May and continuing into the summer, the U.S. Department of Treasury will send economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million individuals. The vast majority of those who qualify will not have to do anything other than file their 2007 individual income tax return to receive their payments. However, those who do not normally file a tax return will need to turn in a simplified filing to receive their benefit.

For those with \$3,000 of qualifying income (including Social Security), the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 will provide a \$300 check to any American, and up to \$600 for individuals who pay income taxes. Payments would be doubled for married couples filing jointly, and families would receive an additional \$300 per child under age 17. It also counts veterans' disability payments as qualified income, extending economic stimulus eligibility for up to 250,000 disabled veterans.

The IRS will be mailing a letter to each eligible person in late March/early April letting them know about the economic stimulus payments and also providing information on how to apply. People will be eligible to apply for their stimulus payments well into Fall 2008 (no final date has been established). People do NOT need to apply by April 15, 2008.