



The CARES Act for Coronavirus Relief – What You Need to Know

President Trump signed the CARE (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act into law on March 27, 2020. This Federal legislation provides \$2 trillion for health care, State and local government, Coronavirus testing, and to individuals and businesses.

Here are some highlights:

- **Direct payments:** Americans who pay taxes may receive a one-time direct deposit of up to \$1,200, and married couples will receive \$2,400, plus an additional \$500 per child. The payments will be available for people with income up to \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for married couples. The cash payments are based on *either* your 2018 or 2019 tax filings and are non-taxable rebates. People who receive Social Security benefits but don't file tax return are still eligible, too. They don't need to file taxes; their checks will be based on information provided by the Social Security Administration.
- **Tax returns:** Some people have not filed their 2019 tax returns, but that's OK. The filing deadline has been extended to July 15. The IRS also says that people who have filed or plan to can still expect to receive a refund if they are owed one
- **Student loans:** Employers can provide up to \$5,250 in tax-free student loan repayment benefits. That means an employer could contribute to loan payments and workers wouldn't have to include that money as income
- **Insurance coverage:** The bill requires all private insurance plans to cover COVID-19 treatments and vaccine and makes all coronavirus tests free
- **Unemployment:** The program provides \$250 billion for an extended unemployment insurance program and expands eligibility and offers workers an additional \$600 per week for four months, on top of what state programs pay. It also extends unemployment benefits through Dec. 31 for eligible workers. The deal applies to the self-employed, independent contractors and gig economy workers.

For more information, see the IRS page <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>

Sources: Forbes (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leonlabrecque/2020/03/29/the-cares-act-has-passed-here-are-the-highlights/#3ec6311768cd>)

NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>)