

State Outreach Can Get Stimulus Payments to as Many Eligible Residents as Possible

About 12 million Americans risk missing out on the CARES Act's stimulus payments because they did not receive payments automatically from the IRS. State-led outreach efforts can help families apply for these payments,¹ which can enable them to afford the basics while also keeping an estimated \$12 billion in payments flowing through state economies during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Outreach efforts can help families claim an estimated **\$12 billion** in stimulus payments.

People not receiving automatic payments include families being paid too little to meet annual tax filing thresholds, people who have been disconnected from work opportunities for a long period, and many adults not raising

children in the home. (See Figure 1 for more detail.) People of color are overrepresented in this group because they are likelier to have lower incomes due to historical racism and ongoing bias and discrimination. Ensuring that people of color who are paid low wages receive the stimulus payments for which they qualify is especially important given emerging evidence that the pandemic's health and economic effects are hitting them hardest.²

Governors and other state officials can play a central role in reaching these 12 million people, up to 9 million of whom participate in SNAP (formerly food stamps) or Medicaid. Because states and counties administer these programs, they can notify enrolled families about the payments, and provide resources to help fill out the form for those who face barriers such as a lack of internet access. They can also partner with community-based organizations to reach the roughly 3 million people not connected to SNAP or Medicaid, such as families experiencing housing instability.

FIGURE 1

Through SNAP and Medicaid, States Can Reach Many Not Receiving Automatic Stimulus Payments

✓ Receiving automatic payments

- Tax filers in 2018 or 2019
- Social Security recipients
- Supplemental Security Income recipients
- Veterans Affairs pension or disability recipients
- Railroad Retirement recipients

⊘ Not receiving automatic payments

About 12 million people

- **9 million** didn't file tax returns for 2018 or 2019 or receive any benefits listed above, but do receive SNAP and/or Medicaid
- **3 million** didn't file tax returns for 2018 or 2019 or receive any benefits listed above, and don't receive SNAP or Medicaid

Source: CBPP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey for 2015-2017, with corrections for underreported SNAP and SSI from the Department of Health and Human Services/Urban Institute Transfer Income Model (TRIM)

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¹ Chuck Marr et al., "Aggressive State Outreach Can Help Reach the 12 Million Non-Filers Eligible for Stimulus Payments," CBPP, updated June 23, 2020, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/aggressive-state-outreach-can-help-reach-the-12-million-non-filers-eligible-for>.

² Erica Williams and Cortney Sanders, "3 Principles for an Antiracist, Equitable State Response to COVID-19 — and a Stronger Recovery," CBPP, May 21, 2020, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/3-principles-for-an-anti-racist-equitable-state-response-to-covid-19>.

Ways for State Outreach Campaigns to Help Families Claim Stimulus Payments

- **Reduce barriers to accessing payments**, such as a lack of internet access in the home or limited access to financial services for direct deposit. State agencies can help set up phone helplines and other resources to help families complete the information required on the IRS portal to receive their payment.
- **Educate the public**. States can advertise the availability of these payments through newspapers and social media, on the radio, and by other means.
- **Conduct outreach to families enrolled in SNAP or Medicaid**. Three-quarters of families eligible for payments are enrolled in SNAP, Medicaid, or both. State agencies can send notices and reminders and help enrolled families fill out the form.
- **Partner with groups already connected to people facing barriers to claiming payments**. States can work with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, homelessness service providers, and other organizations to help them provide payment availability information to the people they work with.

TABLE 1

Estimated People Missed by Automatic Payments, by State

State	State residents missed	Total potential payments (in millions)	Those receiving SNAP and/or Medicaid benefits	
			Number receiving benefits	Potential payments (in millions)
United States	12,399,000	\$12,000	9,270,000	\$9,000
Alabama	267,000	\$264	220,000	\$209
Alaska	32,000	\$31	26,000	\$24
Arizona	267,000	\$274	200,000	\$198
Arkansas	143,000	\$137	110,000	\$101
California	1,484,000	\$1,499	1,082,000	\$1,035
Colorado	152,000	\$160	*	*
Connecticut	108,000	\$109	*	*
Delaware	34,000	\$37	27,000	\$28
District of Columbia	46,000	\$47	35,000	\$35
Florida	991,000	\$1,017	750,000	\$742
Georgia	505,000	\$506	383,000	\$365
Hawaii	50,000	\$53	33,000	\$33
Idaho	42,000	\$44	*	*
Illinois	392,000	\$401	312,000	\$309
Indiana	214,000	\$206	162,000	\$146
Iowa	64,000	\$65	*	*
Kansas	100,000	\$103	*	*
Kentucky	209,000	\$206	171,000	\$162
Louisiana	303,000	\$302	233,000	\$ 221
Maine	*	*	*	*
Maryland	147,000	\$157	*	*
Massachusetts	223,000	\$232	159,000	\$158

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Estimated People Missed by Automatic Payments, by State

State	State residents missed	Total potential payments (in millions)	Those receiving SNAP and/or Medicaid benefits	
			Number receiving benefits	Potential payments (in millions)
Michigan	369,000	\$361	308,000	\$293
Minnesota	122,000	\$127	*	*
Mississippi	185,000	\$180	145,000	\$133
Missouri	197,000	\$202	143,000	\$140
Montana	25,000	\$25	19,000	\$18
Nebraska	*	*	*	*
Nevada	112,000	\$112	87,000	\$83
New Hampshire	*	*	*	*
New Jersey	276,000	\$287	186,000	\$182
New Mexico	124,000	\$124	105,000	\$101
New York	814,000	\$834	625,000	\$616
North Carolina	471,000	\$474	340,000	\$324
North Dakota	24,000	\$24	16,000	\$15
Ohio	489,000	\$466	394,000	\$358
Oklahoma	165,000	\$166	130,000	\$126
Oregon	158,000	\$159	118,000	\$113
Pennsylvania	449,000	\$438	363,000	\$337
Rhode Island	37,000	\$39	30,000	\$31
South Carolina	273,000	\$262	213,000	\$194
South Dakota	34,000	\$32	27,000	\$24
Tennessee	280,000	\$288	215,000	\$213
Texas	1,024,000	\$1,010	685,000	\$624
Utah	57,000	\$58	*	*
Vermont	17,000	\$16	14,000	\$13
Virginia	321,000	\$326	191,000	\$177
Washington	228,000	\$228	185,000	\$179
West Virginia	115,000	\$112	100,000	\$94
Wisconsin	140,000	\$142	*	*
Wyoming	16,000	\$16	*	*

*Sample size too small.

Source: CBPP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey for 2015-2017, with corrections for underreported SNAP and Supplemental Security Income from the Department of Health and Human Services/Urban Institute Transfer Income Model (TRIM).

TABLE 2

Estimated People Missed by Automatic Payments Who Receive SNAP Benefits

State	State residents missed	Those receiving SNAP benefits			Potential payments, in millions of dollars
		Households	All individuals	Children (under 17 years)	
United States	12,399,000	3,270,000	6,534,000	3,024,000	\$5,700
Alabama	267,000	45,500	99,600	47,700	\$86
Alaska	32,000	7,900	17,700	7,700	\$16
Arizona	267,000	68,500	133,000	56,300	\$120
Arkansas	143,000	20,800	46,800	23,500	\$40
California	1,484,000	543,600	1,095,100	548,900	\$930
Colorado	152,000	35,200	78,700	42,200	\$65
Connecticut	108,000	39,100	65,400	22,800	\$63
Delaware	34,000	11,300	22,800	11,100	\$20
District of Columbia	46,000	13,200	23,500	9,300	\$22
Florida	991,000	245,800	437,400	184,000	\$396
Georgia	505,000	151,800	330,400	158,500	\$286
Hawaii	50,000	12,100	22,800	9,500	\$21
Idaho	42,000	7,300	18,800	10,800	\$15
Illinois	392,000	172,000	315,900	129,200	\$289
Indiana	214,000	34,600	79,200	39,900	\$67
Iowa	64,000	26,300	55,600	27,900	\$47
Kansas	100,000	9,100	21,600	11,800	\$18
Kentucky	209,000	49,700	95,900	36,400	\$90
Louisiana	303,000	48,300	113,300	60,400	\$94
Maine	*	6,900	14,900	6,900	\$13
Maryland	147,000	67,300	121,800	50,000	\$111
Massachusetts	223,000	56,100	108,200	48,200	\$96
Michigan	369,000	93,500	159,100	53,100	\$154
Minnesota	122,000	26,100	49,500	27,100	\$40
Mississippi	185,000	41,600	88,800	40,800	\$78
Missouri	197,000	38,400	86,300	45,700	\$72
Montana	25,000	5,100	11,600	5,400	\$10
Nebraska	*	9,600	20,900	11,000	\$17
Nevada	112,000	38,300	69,700	28,400	\$64
New Hampshire	*	4,400	9,900	4,900	\$8
New Jersey	276,000	66,800	139,800	76,800	\$114
New Mexico	124,000	27,000	56,800	25,200	\$51
New York	814,000	188,600	351,200	152,500	\$315
North Carolina	471,000	120,900	241,400	110,200	\$213
North Dakota	24,000	3,400	8,400	4,400	\$7

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Estimated People Missed by Automatic Payments Who Receive SNAP Benefits

State	State residents missed	Those receiving SNAP benefits			Potential payments, in millions of dollars
		Households	All individuals	Children (under 17 years)	
Ohio	489,000	92,900	179,800	78,100	\$161
Oklahoma	165,000	31,100	74,000	38,200	\$62
Oregon	158,000	50,600	92,700	34,400	\$87
Pennsylvania	449,000	105,500	211,700	95,200	\$187
Rhode Island	37,000	11,200	19,900	7,700	\$18
South Carolina	273,000	58,500	134,200	68,900	\$113
South Dakota	34,000	5,500	13,900	7,600	\$11
Tennessee	280,000	80,700	161,400	70,100	\$145
Texas	1,024,000	290,500	610,000	300,700	\$521
Utah	57,000	13,900	33,200	18,600	\$27
Vermont	17,000	2,500	5,100	2,300	\$4
Virginia	321,000	53,000	126,000	65,700	\$105
Washington	228,000	68,900	118,800	47,100	\$110
West Virginia	115,000	25,100	50,800	20,600	\$47
Wisconsin	140,000	34,800	67,800	28,500	\$61
Wyoming	16,000	1,800	4,700	2,500	\$4

Source: CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture SNAP Household Characteristics data for fiscal years 2016-2018.

Note: We estimate that automatic payments will miss about 12 million people; of these, about 9 million receive SNAP and/or Medicaid. The figures shown here represent the subgroup of the 9 million who receive SNAP, whether or not they receive Medicaid.