EIP Non-Filer Toolkit – Op-Ed

*NOTE: Please customize text in red with information specific to your organization, state-specific numbers from the CBPP paper, and local resources that can support non-filers with filing out the form.*

While many Americans will receive their Economic Impact Payments or “stimulus checks” automatically, around [state-specific number from [CBPP paper](https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/aggressive-state-outreach-can-help-reach-the-12-million-non-filers-eligible-for)] [state] residents could completely miss out on this financial boost from the federal government.

The [number] [state] residents who didn’t file federal taxes in 2018 or 2019 and don’t participate in certain federally administered programs will need to complete the online IRS form by November 21, 2020 to receive their payment this year. Non-filers can sign up today at IRS.gov/EIP.

Extremely low-income individuals who don’t regularly file taxes won’t get a check automatically but could greatly benefit from $1,200 to help with expenses. For example, this population could include an individual experiencing homelessness, families with children, and those who’ve been out of work for an extended period. Many of these individuals may not know they can get this cash payment.

[insert local story/example of individual or family who could benefit]

In many cases, this population isn’t required to file federal income tax returns due to their low incomes, so the automatic payments miss them. For non-filers to receive their payments, they must provide their information to the IRS through either a 2019 tax return or the IRS non-filer tool, a simplified online form.

The [organization associated with byline] knows people are struggling to make ends meet during these challenging times. With increased health risks and the additional job loss due to COVID-19, paying bills is tougher than ever. This cash assistance could help provide some stability to people to get through these tough times and help our state in ongoing economic recovery by stimulating the [state] economy by approximately [dollar amount specific to state from [CBPP paper](https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/aggressive-state-outreach-can-help-reach-the-12-million-non-filers-eligible-for)].

[option to include specific info about outreach efforts from state]

The considerable payments are available to people with the lowest incomes, unlike the payments issued during the Great Recession. Those with no income are eligible for the full amount, $1,200 for individuals and $500 for each qualifying child.

To claim their check, individuals must complete the IRS’ online non-filer form. It requires five pieces of information: full name, mailing address, email address, date of birth, and Social Security number. In addition to not having an email address or a mailing address, many in this population may not have a bank account which while optional, can quicken payment delivery. People will need guidance as they begin the process to sign up for their payments. In [state], local help is available through [include local details]. Help is also available by phone through United Way’s 211 hotline.