

National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment

Helping Seniors and Adults with Disabilities Access Benefits

\$250 Payment Is On Its Way to You

Good news! Just about everyone who gets a Social Security, Railroad Retirement (RRB) or a Veterans Administration (VA) disability pension will receive a one-time payment from the U.S. government of \$250 – coming in May 2009 - thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law in February 2009. **This money is yours to spend as you wish, or to save.**

Your questions answered...

Who's getting a one-time payment?

Anyone who gets any kind of Social Security benefit including retirement, survivors and disability benefits, Railroad Retirement, or Veterans Administration (VA) disability pension. Also, most people who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will get a one-time payment.

What if I only get SSI?

Most people who get only SSI will get a one-time payment. However, if you live in a nursing home and get a monthly SSI benefit of \$30 you will not get a one-time payment.

When do I get my payment?

No later than June 4th, 2009 – although most payments will go out in May.

What do I have to do to get my payment?

Nothing!

You will get a notice in April explaining that the payment is coming. In May, the extra \$250 payment will come to you in the same way you get your usual benefit (such as Social Security, Railroad Retirement, VA or SSI). If your usual monthly benefit is directly deposited into your bank account, the extra payment will also be directly deposited. If your usual payment arrives in the mail, the extra payment will be mailed to you too.

I'm on Medicaid, do I have to use the one-time payment to help pay for my care?

No. This one-time payment is yours, and you can use it as you choose.

How will this payment affect other benefits I get now, like Medicaid or Food Stamps, now called SNAP?

If you receive government benefits such as Medicaid, this payment won't affect your eligibility or the amount of your benefits until the 9th month after you get it, or generally February 2010.

Can I keep the one-time payment?

You can save it if you want to. But be sure it will not put your savings over the asset limit for any programs you may receive, such as SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), energy assistance or help with your housing costs, as of February 2010.

What if I don't get my \$250 by June 4, 2009?

If you don't receive your \$250 by June 4th, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

If I get Social Security and SSI, or Social Security and a Veterans Administration pension, how many one-time payments will I get?

This is a one-time, \$250 payment, no matter how many benefits you receive. However, if you are married, you and your spouse will each get a one-time payment.

Where can I get more information?

Go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/> or call 1-800-772-1213.