

Special COVID Payments

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Stimulus Payments and ABLÉ Accounts

Can I deposit the stimulus payment into an ABLÉ account?



Yes! You can put all or part of your stimulus payment into an ABLÉ account. That way you don't have to worry about spending the money right away. Putting the payment in an ABLÉ account can give you flexibility. Plus, it will have the same benefits protection that the other money in your ABLÉ account has.

Why should I consider putting some, or all, of this payment into an ABLÉ account?

An ABLÉ account can help you save for things that are not covered by benefits. If you don't need to use the stimulus payment for things right now, you can use it to start saving. You can save for whatever you need to be independent and participate in your community. That includes adaptive equipment, a vehicle, a home, assistive technology, personal support services, and many other expenses. You can also use an ABLÉ account to save for emergencies.

How does an ABLÉ account help me from exceeding my \$2,000 asset limit?



Funds in your ABLÉ account are not counted toward your \$2,000 asset limit. You will not lose your benefits or lose eligibility for state or federal benefits (like SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and HUD) by owning an ABLÉ account. You can save up to \$100,000 in your ABLÉ account and still receive your monthly SSI benefits.

Can other people help me decide how to spend the money or set up an ABLÉ account?



Yes. However, it is your decision how to spend or save the stimulus payment. Making financial decisions is hard for many people. People you trust can help you decide what to do with your money. This includes family, friends, the disability service system, and others. They might also be able to help you set up an ABLÉ account.

Are there any other payments related to COVID-19 that I should be aware of?

If you were working and lost your job, you may be able to receive unemployment benefits. The federal government is giving people who receive unemployment an extra \$600 a week because of COVID-19.

Unemployment benefits are counted as unearned income for SSI. You must tell Social Security if you receive unemployment. This can affect your SSI or SSDI benefits.

You can save your unemployment benefits in an ABLÉ account so that they will not count as an asset in the future unless your account exceeds \$100,000. Unemployment will still count as income when you receive it.

Where can I get more information?

- IRS "Economic Impact Payments" - www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments
- Maryland ABLÉ - www.marylandable.org
- Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - www.md-council.org
- Maryland Department of Disabilities - www.mdod.maryland.gov
- Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration - www.dda.health.maryland.gov
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau - https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_ymyg_focus-on-people-with-disabilities.pdf

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Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Developmental Disabilities Administration

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