



ATTENTION!

COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the State of California Have Created Real Benefits For You!

Here's your checklist of resources that support child and family health and well-being!

More Income for Your Household



Through the American Rescue Plan Act, the federal government is providing families with more income support, including the expanded Child Tax Credit and Economic Impact Payments (also known as direct stimulus payments). All children with Social Security numbers, including those with parents who are immigrants, qualify for both.

Undocumented parents or guardians must have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). **Parents will not face immigration or public charge consequences for receiving these resources for their children.** Additionally, these direct federal benefits will not count as income for Cal-Fresh/SNAP, Medi-Cal/Medicaid or Child Care benefits.

Advanced Child Tax Credit

At least **\$3,000 per child** will be sent to families over the year, starting this July. To make sure you get your payment, make sure your child has a social security number and file a 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes, and you will receive payments automatically. **IMPORTANT!** Even if you aren't normally required to file taxes, you can still receive the expanded child tax credit using a new IRS Non-Filer portal (see side box) to submit a simplified tax return.

Economic Impact/Direct Stimulus Payments

\$1,400 per adult and child in your household will be sent to every family with income under \$75,000 for single parent families and \$150,000 for two parent families. To make sure you receive your check, your child must have a social security number and you must file a 2019 or 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes.

Golden State Stimulus (GSS) Payments

In addition to what the federal government is providing, the state of California is also helping families that faced economic hardship due to COVID-19 through Golden State Stimulus (GSS) Payments. **Immigrant family members who are income-eligible and file taxes with an ITIN can also qualify and use these payments without fear of immigration or Public Charge consequences.** GSS payments do not count as income for the purpose of accessing other public benefits like Cal-Fresh or Medi-Cal.

Payments of up to **\$1,200** are available to families who are eligible for the California Earned Income Tax Credit or those with an ITIN if they earn less than \$75,000.

Your 2020 tax return determines if you're eligible to receive GSS payments. To qualify, families must file their 2020 tax return by Oct. 15, 2021. If you've already filed your 2020 tax return, you do not have to do anything else. If you qualify, you'll receive your payments by direct deposit or a check in the mail.

RESOURCES:

- Find out how to get an ITIN: (<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/how-do-i-apply-for-an-itin>)
- To find a location near you where you can get help filing your tax return for free, visit: IRS VITA Free Tax Prep (irs.treasury.gov)
- Learn more and submit your information for the Advanced Child Tax Credit here: (<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021>)
- Track the status of your economic impact payments: (<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>)
- Check out this easy to follow chart here to see if you qualify for GSS payments: (<https://caimmigrant.org/updates/can-you-get-the-golden-state-stimulus/>)
- Get more help with GSS payments: (<https://www.ftb.ca.gov/about-ftb/newsroom/golden-state-stimulus/help.html>)
- For more information on the California Earned Income Tax Credit and if you qualify: (<https://www.caleitc4me.org/what-is-the-caleitc/>)



New Unemployment Benefits



\$300 more per week will be added onto what you receive from your state in unemployment compensation through Sept. 6, 2021, and the Pandemic Unemployment benefits will go through Sept. 6, 2021, as well.

Unemployment benefits of up to **\$10,200** received since the pandemic began **will not count as taxable income** for your 2020 federal tax return.

\$300 MORE PER WEEK:

- For more information and register: (<https://edd.ca.gov/unemployment/>).

\$10,200 Tax Exempt Unemployment Benefits

- More info here: (bit.ly/ARPFactSheet)

Reduced Health Care Costs



If you are insured via Covered California or want to be, your **monthly health care payments** will be **capped at 8.5 percent** of your income. People with lower incomes will pay a lot less than that. Those with higher incomes will see more savings than ever before under this new limit. Consumers can easily find out if they are eligible for Covered California or Medi-Cal — and see whether they qualify for financial help and which plans are available in their area — by using the CoveredCA.com Shop and Compare Tool and entering their ZIP code, household income and the ages of those who need coverage.

Remember, if you or your child are insured via Medi-Cal, your COVID-19 related health care costs are **waived and covered**.

Medi-Cal members can stop monthly premiums and save money through the end of 2021 and after! Due to COVID-19, families and individuals who are currently paying Medi-Cal premiums can save money and stop payments through the end of 2021. Medi-Cal members can also request premium credits for any payments made since March 2020. **REMINDER:** Medi-Cal coverage cannot be terminated during the public health emergency, even if a family does not pay their monthly premiums.

If you were laid off or had your hours cut back due to the pandemic, you might be able to get six months of free health insurance through COBRA. Employees who are or were eligible for their employer's COBRA plan -- whether or not they took it up when they became eligible -- can now enroll without a premium through the end of September of 2021. If you are uninsured, paying for individual insurance yourself, or already covered through your employer's COBRA plan, ask your former employer if you are eligible for a COBRA subsidy. (Your employer's costs will be fully reimbursed.)

8.5% INCOME CAP:

- Find more details here: Covered California (<https://www.coveredca.com/#quick-calculator>).
- Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from a certified health coverage enroller at **(800) 300-1506**.

COVERAGE FOR COVID-19 VACCINES:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine by checking myturn.ca.gov or calling **1-833-422-4255**. Use the CDC's Vaccines.gov to find an appointment or walk-in site near you.

STOP MEDI-CAL PREMIUM PAYMENTS AND GET CREDITS FOR PAST PAYMENTS:

- To start and keep saving money on Medi-Cal premiums, call **1-800-880-5305**.

6 MONTHS FREE HEALTH INSURANCE:

- Call former employer.



Decreasing the Cost of Internet Services



You can qualify for **\$50 a month off (\$75 a month off for Tribal lands)** your Internet bills for approximately six months. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Comcast and Verizon are both offering this benefit. Families, including immigrant and mixed-status families, can qualify if they have a child receiving free or reduced priced school meals, or a PELL grant for college or training, or otherwise if your family's household income is low. This benefit is available to families even if they owe their internet provider for past bills, but the benefit cannot be applied to the debt owed.

\$50/MONTH and \$100 ONE TIME:

- For more information and to apply, go to: (<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>)

Keeping a Roof Over Your Head



The California COVID-19 Rent Relief program provides free financial help to income-eligible households for rent and utilities, both for past due and future payments. Income-eligible applicants may qualify regardless of immigration status and will not be required to show proof of citizenship. Both landlords and renters are encouraged to apply. Assistance from this program does NOT count as earned income (for renters) and will NOT affect eligibility for any other state benefit assistance programs, such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh or CalWORKS. For those with eligible incomes, 100 percent of unpaid rent and utility payments dating back to Apr. 1, 2020 as well as future rent and utility costs are covered.

RENT AND MORTGAGE:

- For additional information, including eligibility and application help, call **833-430-2122** or visit (https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html)

Extra Help Paying for Food



Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a federal program that gives eligible families additional food benefits on top of CalFresh Food benefits and school meals. P-EBT provides additional food benefits to make up for free or reduced-price meals usually served at child care or school that children may have missed because of the pandemic. The maximum amount per eligible child is \$123 per month. You can get P-EBT benefits AND 'grab and go' meals or meals at school during the 2021-22 school year.

You Do Not Need to Apply for P-EBT - a card will automatically be mailed home for each eligible child. Cards will start arriving in early July 2021 through August 2021 for kids 0-6 who received CalFresh between October 2020 and January 2021, and early September 2021 through November for kids in grades TK-12 who are enrolled in free or reduced price school meals. Young kids who received CalFresh between February 2021 and May 2021 will get their benefits beginning November 2021.

The P-EBT card is safe for you and your family members. **The program will NOT report anyone to immigration services for buying food with this card nor will anyone using this card be considered a public charge.** P-EBT does not count as income, and it doesn't affect your eligibility for school meals. You can use P-EBT without worrying that it's going to cause problems for any other benefits.

If you receive nutrition benefits through the Women, Infants & Children Program, because of the American Rescue Plan Act, you will receive an extra \$35 per month for more fruits and vegetables through Sept. 30, 2021.

UP TO \$123 PER MONTH:

- Find out more here: Pandemic EBT Guide (<https://capandemic-ebt.org>)

\$35 MORE PER MONTH:

- Set up an appointment to get WIC: (<https://myfamily.wic.ca.gov/>)



Keeping Your Job and Dealing with COVID's Impact on Your Family



California offers several options to help income-eligible families pay for child care. CalWORKs and Alternative Payment Programs provide vouchers for families to obtain care in licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, or license-exempt care. The family may choose the type of care that their child receives.

You can lower what you owe in federal taxes by declaring your child care expenses for the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Doing so can **reduce what you owe in federal taxes by as much as \$4,000** if you spent at least twice as much for child care for any child 13 years old or younger; **or \$8,000** if you spent more than \$16,000 for child care for two or more children. And if you owe less in taxes, you will get the rest of the credit paid to you directly.

You can **be paid for any leave** you need to take care of someone in your family affected by COVID or if your child's school or child care program is closed. Your employer will be reimbursed for paying you through Sept. 30, 2021.

CHILD CARE COVERAGE:

- Contact your local resource and referral agency and they can help you figure out if you qualify for help paying for child care (<https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care>)

REDUCE FEDERAL TAXES:

- Find more details here: (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/child-and-dependent-care-tax-credit-faqs>)

PAID LEAVE:

- Find more details here: COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act Questions (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/pandemic>).

Thank you!



We thank **Philadelphia-based organization Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)** for creating the original content of this resource and allowing us to update the language in order to tailor it to California's children and families. We also thank Partnership for America's Children for sharing this resource with us and creating a national space for child and family advocates to collaborate together.

