

## **Mixed-Status Families to Finally Receive Stimulus Checks**

Article By:

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Last week, Congress passed the \$900 billion coronavirus relief package that was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 27, 2020. In this package, the U.S. government will allow mixed-status households to receive stimulus checks. In mixed-status families, at least one member of the household must have a Social Security number (SSN). These families were denied stimulus checks in the first round of payments offered in late March this year.

### **Who Can Expect Stimulus Checks?**

United States citizens and legal permanent residents (green card holders) will receive \$600 in direct aid, even if they previously filed their taxes jointly with an undocumented spouse. An additional \$600 checks will be sent for each dependent child. The new compromise is also retroactive to the mixed-status families where at least one household member has an SSN. These families will receive checks for \$1,200 per household and \$500 per child as previously allocated by the CARES Act.

Individuals with an adjusted gross income higher than \$75,000 in 2019, heads of household who earned more than \$112,500, and couples who made \$150,000 will not be eligible for the checks. Undocumented immigrants and other non-citizens who do not have an SSN and file individual tax returns are ineligible for aid. U.S. Citizen children will not receive this aid at least one parent has an SSN.

Many undocumented immigrants and some non-citizens are ineligible for Social Security Numbers. They use government-issued Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) to pay taxes. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries have Social Security Numbers.

### **Reactions to the Coronavirus Relief Package**

“It was unfair and absurd that millions of taxpayers in need of assistance to feed their families, many in the immigrant community with U.S. citizen children and working on the frontlines, were previously denied access to these survival funds,” said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. “I am pleased we were able to extend this economic lifeline to additional families in need.”

“Given there are 5.5 million immigrants working at the front lines of this crisis as essential workers,

Congress should provide protection to all tax filers in the U.S regardless of immigration status,” Kerri Talbot, the Director of Federal Advocacy at [The Immigration Hub](#), a lobbying group, said in a statement.

The nonprofit [Migration Policy Institute](#) estimated that 14.4 million people in mixed-status families were excluded from relief. This included 5.1 million who are either citizens or green cardholders. Specifically, the figure includes 1.4 million spouses and 3.7 million children who are citizens or legal residents.

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