

Facts about the 2008 Stimulus Payments that can affect seniors.

To be eligible for the IRS economic stimulus payment individuals must file a 2007 tax return. The payment will equal the amount of tax liability on the return with a maximum amount of \$600 for Individuals (\$1,200 if filed a joint return) and a minimum of \$300 for Individuals (\$600 if filed a joint return). A tax return **must** be filed regardless if a person has little or no income. If an individual has no other income except Social Security they can fill out a paper return and mail it in, providing that their Social Security or other income reflects \$3,000 or more in qualifying income (earned income such as wages and net self-employment income as well as Social Security or certain Railroad Retirement benefits and veteran's disability compensation, pension or survivors' benefits received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2007). However, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.

Low-income workers who have earned income above \$3,000 but do not have a regular filing requirement must file a 2007 to receive the minimum stimulus payment. Forms available at the Senior Center and at www.IRS.gov.

The IRS emphasized that people with no filing requirements who turn in a tax return to qualify for the economic stimulus payment will not get a tax bill. People in this category will not owe money because of the stimulus payment.

Low-and moderate-income workers, including veterans, can get free tax help through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) PROGRAM. Call 1-800-906-9887 to locate the nearest VITA site. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program provides free tax help to people age 60 and older. To find an AARP Tax aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit the AARP Web site. The best source for additional information and answers to questions is www.IRS.gov